

**Out and About
with The GEM**
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Wales and the Six Nations

SEE FEATURE ON PAGES 16 - 17



COULD SOLAR FARMS BE ON THE MARCH THROUGH THE RURAL VALE?

RESIDENTS in West Aberthaw are angry that a massive solar farm has been granted planning permission, and fear that it could be the start of a 'roll out' across the rural Vale, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

At last Thursday's

meeting of the Vale Council planning committee (January 16), applications were considered for three solar farms in the Vale.

The renewable energy company INRG Solar had put forward two, at West Farm Hall in Aberthaw, and at Sutton Mawr farm near Moulton.

Another company,

Lightsources SPV of London, put forward an amended application for a solar farm at Treguff Farm near Flemingston - an application that had previously been turned down.

At the meeting, the Treguff Farm was turned down again, but the other two were passed. In all three cases, the Vale Council officers' recommendation was that they should be passed.

Josie Evans of West Aberthaw, who was at the planning meeting, told The GEM: "I was shocked that after a long discussion about Treguff Farm, the application in West Aberthaw was passed in five minutes or so."

"The Sutton Mawr farm application also

went through with hardly any discussion."

The two successful applications are much bigger solar farms than the unsuccessful one.

At Sutton Mawr, the solar panels will cover 19.11 hectares, and will generate 8MW of power, while West Aberthaw will cover 16.33 hectares and will generate 7MW.

In contrast, after being previously turned down, the Treguff solar farm had been scaled down, from a 4.36MW unit to a 3.65MW, covering 10.79 hectares.

Nevertheless, it was turned down again. Josie Evans said: "I think we suffered in West Aberthaw because councillors thought: 'What's the

problem? They already have a power station and cement works nearby.'

"It now means that we are surrounded, and will lose the rural character of our neighbourhood."

She said that residents in West Aberthaw and Gileston had all opposed the plan, and had signed a petition - to no avail.

Coun Kevin Mahoney, who represents UKIP on the Vale Council, said: "As the only councillor to vote against the application for the siting of a solar farm at West Aberthaw, it is with some disgust that I highlight that this project will basically hem in the poor residents of this area."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Butts parking ticket row takes another twist

RIGHT: The disputed area in The Butts where parking tickets (at the moment) are no longer being issued to motorists.



THE row over the issuing of parking tickets in The Butts in Cowbridge has taken another turn.

Traffic wardens (or Civil Enforcement Officers, as they are now called) are no longer issuing tickets, because doubts have emerged over who owns the land.

The cars that received tickets were - as the drivers freely admitted - parked on double yellow lines, but not on the road, and they did not impede traffic flow.

The Butts has double yellow lines on both sides of the road. On one side is the official town walls car park, while on the other side there is an area

of wasteland, where there is room for three or four cars.

It was cars on this side of the road that received £70 parking tickets. One driver, who asked not to be named, told The GEM that she would be disputing the ticket and taking it up with the Vale Council.

This week, the Vale Council confirmed that tickets were no longer being issued.

A spokesperson said: "The status of the triangular verge area at The Butts, Cowbridge, is being investigated and until such time as this matter has been clarified, no further tickets will be issued at this location."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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'Fire station plan a backward step'

IT is with great regret that I hear we will be losing our full time fire station in Cowbridge at the end of March this year.

For the past 40 odd years, we have had a full time crew in Cowbridge, always there in case of a fire in the town or a road accident on the A48 or on the minor roads.

Now, thanks to the Tory cuts, we will have to wait for part timers to respond to calls to the station.

This will, of course, delay the turnout of the fire engine (assuming that they will be able to

muster a full crew). The nearest full time fire stations to back up Cowbridge are Bridgend and Barry, with part time stations in Llantwit Major and Pontyclun. So let's hope we don't have any serious incidents.

I would like to thank the full time crews of Cowbridge for the comforting knowledge of always being there for the needs of the people of Cowbridge and the surrounding area.

What a step backwards at a time when there is talk of building more houses in Cowbridge.

Mr PS Knight, Cowbridge.

'Horried' over solar park plans

THE hamlets of West Aberthaw and Gileston were horrified when the Vale Council made the decision on Thursday night to rubber-stamp an application for a solar park.

The residents, who have to live with this in their back gardens were not listened to. The reason that this is going ahead is simply because

of pressure being put on local councils by the UK Government to provide more renewable energy locally.

It is these residents, who have lived in these localities for many years, who have to now put up with these panels in their back yards.

We all need to be aware of the impact these solar park developments are going to have on the local countryside. **Carol Harrington, West Aberthaw.**

'Support workers of the future'

IWOULD like to bring to the attention of local firms, that if we are to maintain our engineering skill-set in Wales, the Welsh Government and local industry have to assist young students who are seeking work placements.

Whilst I fully understand the implications of young persons in the work place from a health and safety aspect, it is frustrating when companies do not even bother

to reply to requests for work placement.

I have a 16 year-old son who is trying to get a work placement in any local engineering company – currently to no avail. The Welsh Government has been promoting engineering students in Wales; however, students taking A levels are finding it increasingly difficult to find placements.

I would implore local industries to take up the gauntlet and support the students of today who will be the work force of tomorrow.

Mrs JL Rogers, Llantwit Major.

• Email your letters to The Editor at: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk including FULL NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER.

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

No playing politics with education... 'The true facts about schooling in the Vale'

IFEEL I must respond to the misleading letters from Coun Richard Bertin and Alun Cairns MP, regarding the Scrutiny Committee report on schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

They are clearly keen to play politics with an obsolete report, which was rejected by the cabinet over six months ago.

I would like to give some facts, as opposed to the scare-mongering which they seem to relish, that only causes concern for parents, staff and – most importantly – pupils.

Fact 1: The report was produced by the Scrutiny Committee, Lifelong Learning, and chaired by Coun Nic Hodges. For the avoidance of doubt, at no point did a member of the Vale cabinet take part in the working group that developed/wrote the report.

Fact 2: The working group was cross-party and included 'Independent' councillors.

Fact 3: Scrutiny Committees can compile reports and make recommendations to cabinet (as they did on this occasion), but they are not the decision makers.

'Peggy will be remembered for her kindness'

JUST after Christmas, the town of Barry lost one of its most respected, loved and well-known characters on the death of Mrs Peggy Taylor.

Her charitable work in Barry Island and, more recently, throughout the town, involved supporting numerous worthy causes too many to mention.

Her kindness and readiness at all times to encourage and support anyone in need of help was legendary.

It was only when she was frustrated by failing

eyesight that she had to retire from charitable work and accept help herself.

Peggy was a well-loved matriarch to her family, who gave her great support, especially when she encountered health problems – and her pride and happiness in her family was evident to everyone who knew her.

One who had a firm Christian faith, she has now surely gone to her reward and will be welcomed with the words "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

W Haydn Burgess, Barry.

GREAT LEAP BACKWARDS?

IT fills me with horror that with council reorganisation we may be merged with Cardiff.

I am more than satisfied with our refuse collection service, whilst Cardiff council is proposing monthly black bag collection – potentially a great leap backwards.

Rhodri Williams, Llantwit Major.

Only cabinet or council can make decisions and in this case, the cabinet rejected the report, several months ago – as reported widely in the press.

Fact 4: The report was not kept under part two or 'secret' by the Vale Labour-Llantwit First cabinet, but instead by the Scrutiny Committee. I would like to make it clear at no point did I, or any other member of the cabinet, agree to the report being kept in part two (secret), as it wasn't our report, it was the Scrutiny Committee's report.

Fact 5: Any explanation as to why the Scrutiny Committee made those recommendations would need to be explained by its Chair, Coun Nic Hodges. As the cabinet member for children's services, I cannot explain a report that I had no part in developing or writing.

Fact 6: It is a shame Coun Bertin has chosen to mislead the public suggesting 'What's next?' If he had bothered to read the various cabinet reports I have published in recent months (all a matter of public record) he would have seen that the cabinet have put forward alternative proposals to deliver improvements to our schools right across the Vale of Glamorgan.

Fact 7: Both Mr Cairns and

Mr Bertin make reference to Colcot Primary School in Barry, claiming we have a hidden agenda, whereas in reality we are working with the headteacher and have agreed a redevelopment fund of £500,000 for the school, and confirmed a new Flying Start centre will be located at the school. Again, this has all been reported in the press.

Fact 8: Mr Cairns has at no point, according to our records, made any formal representations to me or any other member of the cabinet over the Scrutiny Committee's report.

So, while sound bites in the press are one thing, actually doing something positive is quite different.

Finally, and importantly, the cabinet since rejecting the Scrutiny Committee report have put forward a clear strategy for schools throughout the Vale of Glamorgan, all of which is in the public domain.

There will always be more to do, but I make one clear pledge to every parent, carer, governor, member of staff and pupil across our schools – I will never play politics with education – in my view it is simply too important. **Coun Chris Elmore, Barry (Cabinet member for children's services) Vale of Glamorgan Council.**

Plaid prescription is... more doctors

WE all agree that Wales needs a National Health Service that is fit for the twenty-first century; however, Wales currently has the worst doctor to population ratio in the UK and one of the worst across the whole of the European Union.

It doesn't have to be like this. Plaid Cymru's plans will increase the number of doctors in Wales by 1,000 to bring us up to the UK average.

This is a 'Wales can' approach, in contrast to the Welsh Government's proposals to remove core services across Wales, because they think that Wales can't.

These doctors can be provided through a number of means. We could do this by providing financial incentives, such as additional bursaries or paying off tuition fees to doctors

who stay in Wales and work in hard-to-fill posts.

We can also increase the amount of medical research in Wales and attract greater research funding, bringing well-known specialists to Wales.

We should increase the capacity of our medical schools to train more doctors and encourage more of our young people to go into medicine as well as staying in Wales.

In the short term, to get the numbers up, we should be working to attract well-qualified doctors from elsewhere in the EU to help treat our elderly and sick while our next generation of doctors are being trained.

Wales should have a 21st century NHS, but it will only get one if it has a Plaid Cymru government which believes that Wales can.

Coun Ian Johnson, Barry. Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales

'Clamp down on fly tipping'



Tiles dumped near Llangan.

FLY tipping remains a huge problem in the Vale, with known hot spots suffering repeated dumping.

This is costing taxpayers thousands of pounds for the council to remove. This money could be better used on other essential services.

There is actually no need for fly tipping, with facilities at Llandow and Barry that facilitate free rubbish dumping. This rubbish is also recycled and, therefore, good for the environment.

The picture (above) shows tiles that were dumped near Llangan. Anyone who has recently had a bathroom or kitchen renovated, may not be aware that a contractor has illegally dumped the waste.

If you recognise these tiles, please call the environmental team at the Vale Council.

Fly tipping is unacceptable and leaves the environment dirty and scruffy – and in some cases is harmful to health, when dangerous substances are dumped. **Martin Jones, Graig Penllyn.**

'Hit dog owners in their pockets'

ONCE again, some 'caring' dog walkers have managed to have a total disregard for the pedestrians who use the pavements of Highlight Park, Barry.

I walk regularly to Tesco and did so this morning. In total, I side-stepped at least a dozen separate 'dog deposits'.

The owners seem to care little that the majority of pavement users are most likely to be the elderly and young mums going about their business.

It's a pity that it wasn't a punishable offence to dog walk without the necessary bags on your person. Maybe as 'Big Brother' tightens his grip, one day all dogs will be DNA'd and the errant owners swiftly brought to justice... This should be a massive fine. Hit them in their pockets!

Ken Morgan, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 30)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

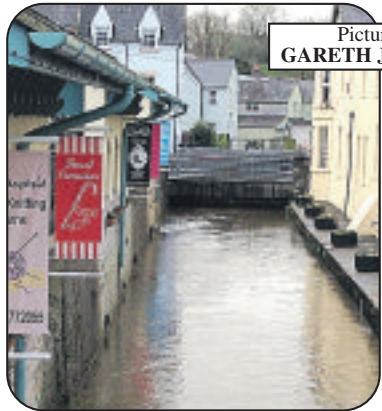
For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
23 Thur	10.27	8.6	22.53	8.4
24 Fri	11.15	8.2	23.47	8.1
25 Sat			12.17	8.0
26 Sun	00.53	7.9	13.38	7.8
27 Mon	02.26	7.9	14.54	8.1
28 Tues	03.36	8.5	16.07	8.7
29 Wed	04.39	9.2	17.06	9.4
30 Thur	05.39	9.9	18.07	10.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

IT WAS PRETTY CLOSE, BUT.. Cowbridge spared floods

Pictures by
GARETH JAMIESON



AS can be seen from these pictures of the River Thaw taken in Cowbridge on Friday, January 17, it was close to breaking its banks.

Local residents know only too well, that once the water reaches the level of the bridge, the water can start to back up, causing flooding. Fortunately, despite heavy rain in Wales over the last few weeks, the town has avoided serious flooding, an indication, perhaps, that flood defences on the outskirts of Cowbridge are doing a good job.



COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llangan School
ON January 14, years 3 - 4 had a wonderful day out when they visited the Roman museum at Caerleon.

I am sure the experience will remain with them for a very long time. On Tuesday, January 28 it will be the turn of the nursery and reception class when the children will visit Cardiff Castle.

Bus service
TO those people living in the Vale villages who have been without a bus service for the past months, there is a ray of hope - with an on-demand bus service which will function between 8.15am and 6.15pm from Monday to Friday.

Seats must be booked

in advance. Telephone 0800 294 1113 for further information between 9am - 1pm, Monday - Friday.

Site Hazard
AS a user of the rubbish disposal depot which is situated on the Llandow trading estate, I was appalled when visiting the site recently by dangerously deep holes at the entrance to the site and the full length of the road.

It is all very well for the heavy lorries, but a family car could sustain serious damage, so please, whoever is responsible, carry out some urgent repairs!

Get well!

A GET WELL message goes to Young At Heart Club stalwart, Marje Adams, from all her friends at the club.

History society's appeal to Cowbridge residents... CAN YOU HELP?

COWBRIDGE History Society has run out of copies of its publication, *Llanblethian Buildings and People*, and also *Cowbridge and District Remembered*.

In fact, there are only a few copies remaining of *Cowbridge Buildings and People*.

Requests for all these come in from time to time, yet the society cannot really afford to fund the re-publishing costs involved. If you happen to find any copies of the above that are no longer read, we would be happy to buy them back from you!

Contact: Dick Buswell (01446 771929), Dick Tonkin (772704), Betty Alden (773373).

GARAGE SALE

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd February, 10am-4pm

Gardening Tools & Equipment
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Quiz teams donate to four local charities

RIGHT:
Mrs Mary Noyes with the 'World at Play' cheque



THE Blacksmiths Arms at Llanmaes continues to be the source of generous fundraising through their Wednesday evening quiz teams.

Mrs Mary Noyes has received a cheque for £300 on behalf of 'World at Play'.

A quiz spokesman explained: "The local Vale charity supports disadvantaged children both here in Wales and in eastern Europe through the medium of sport and play."

"Another £300 has also recently been donated to 'First Responders', who provide our local communities with prompt local medical attention, at times literally saving lives prior to the arrival of the ambulance service."

"The quiz team mem-

bers readily agreed to the donation of a further £300 to 'Shelter Cymru', conscious that there are far too many homeless people in our towns and cities.

"During the final quiz night of the year, a spontaneous auction was held when a number of wood-turned items, kindly made and donated by local resident Dai Jones, were offered."

"The £140 raised was donated to the Latch charity which supports children with cancer."

"Everyone is welcome to join the quiz at the Blacksmiths Arms on Wednesday evenings (8pm)."

Health talk for Senior Citizens

AT their January meeting, Cowbridge Senior Citizens' speaker was Dr Sohreh Roked, a GP in Cardiff, who is also a consultant in integrated medicine.

As one of only 10 such qualified experts in the UK, she works with mainly private clients to help them achieve optimum health.

We were very fortunate that Dr Roked was able to give her time and expertise to help our members to achieve this aim.

She then outlined her plan so that we could have better health and energy.

Dr Roked then answered members' questions, which we all found helpful.

Our next meeting is on February 20, at The Lesser Hall (Town Hall) at 2pm.

It will be our AGM, followed by a bring and share social afternoon, when all members and new members are invited and asked to bring some food to share.

MAVIS ASHFORD, (chairman)

The Cowbridge (Gateway) Monday Club reflects on an action-packed year

ANOTHER busy year has passed in the life of the Cowbridge Monday Club - we have had some members leaving us, for varying reasons - but others have joined us, and it is so good to have a growing number of younger members who throw themselves into our monthly activities with vim and vigour!

We welcome, too, a couple of young helpers undertaking work experience during their sixth form years.

New to the club this year was our participation in the Lions' May Fair.

This event was a trial run for the Llantwit and Cowbridge Lions, the first to be held here in Cowbridge.

It gave us a fun-filled day where members and families attended our stand, and were able to explain what we do to the visiting public.

What a lovely day blessed us!

The sun shone from start to finish; we presented a variety of activities and guessing games for people to have a try, including a soft toy 'lucky dip', a 'find the treasure' map, selling cakes etc.

The money raised (even though the stall was emptied) was not great, but the cheerful atmosphere in sunny south Wales made it all worthwhile.

Similarly, we have, for the first time, decorated and mounted a Christmas tree in Holy Cross church as part of the Tree Festival - all decorations made by club members at our November meeting. The tree looked a treat. I hope everyone managed

to see it.

The Ramoth chapel hall where we meet each month has been beautifully refurbished, and we are very grateful to the chapel for the use of this bright facility, and for the new tables and chairs which make stacking them easier.

Some of this year's activities have been indoor games organised by the Rotary Club; 'keep fit' exercising; a bowling evening at the rear of the leisure centre (with very patient assistance from members of the bowls club); an evening on wildlife we might encounter; a walk about in the town with welcome refreshment at the Living Cafe and our annual dinner at The Bear followed with a sing-song.

The usual tasty harvest supper was held with entertainment, and a hilarious Christmas party with circus skills entertainers. All these events encourage our members to join in.

The coach outing to Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust on the banks of the river Severn was held in kind weather, and this proved an excellent venue to explore, and to enjoy the food there.

Jill Harris of Quarry Cottage held her 50th birthday party in November at The Bear Hotel, and all the club was invited. She is one of our longest serving members - what a lovely evening, full of balloons and dancing!

We can only continue to operate with the hands-on and financial help given by several generous local organisations.

The Lions, for example, are invaluable in transporting members from across the Vale, and then joining in our activities.

We shall be holding our annual dinner in The Bear Hotel on Monday, March 10, at 7pm, and will welcome anyone who wishes to join us that evening.

The cost is £15.50 for non-club members. Please contact Sue Edwards, treasurer, (01446 772788) if you are interested, or myself on 01446 773373; also if you are keen to join us at another time.

BETTY ALDEN (Chairman)

Gardening Club

THE next meeting of Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, January 30, at 7.30pm in the Lesser Town Hall. Mr Don Llewellyn will speak on 'Trials and Triumphs in my Garden'.

New members and visitors welcome.

Felt Workshop with Pat Johnson
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PENLLYNE CASTLE IN THE MORNING MIST

This striking snapshot of Penllyn Castle, shrouded in morning mist, was taken by local photographer MIKE BAKER (mike@bakerlite.co.uk).



NHS inquiry call after patient dies in Bridgend A&E

THE Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend has said that staff are "deeply saddened" after the death of a man whose admittance to the A&E department was delayed by four hours, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

The case, which has now attracted national media interest, took place last Thursday, January 16.

In a statement, a spokeswoman for Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University (ABMU) hospital trust said: "We are deeply saddened to report the death of a patient in the

Emergency Department of the Princess of Wales Hospital on January 16. We wish to express our sincere condolences to the patient's family.

"The patient was admitted to the department at 11am, and two hours later became suddenly very unwell. Despite efforts by staff to resuscitate him, he later died.

"Prior to being admitted to the department, the patient was in an ambulance, attended by paramedics, for over four hours.

"The Princess of Wales Hospital Emergency Department was extremely busy at the time, and unfortunately there were delays admitting patients as a

result. The patient was assessed by a doctor while in the ambulance.

"The Coroner has been informed of his death, and the Health Board is carrying out an urgent review of the case to ascertain what lessons can be learned, and if this very sad death could have been avoided. It is too early at this stage to comment any further."

The Welsh Conservative Shadow Minister for Health Darren Millar AM said: "Welsh Conservatives have long called for an independent Keogh-style inquiry into standards of patient care - a call backed by clinicians across Wales."

The regional AM for South Wales West, Suzy

Davies, said: "This case bears a similarity to that of another recent tragedy in north Wales, which also followed a long wait and delays within the NHS.

"There is a clear problem within our health service and I am extremely saddened to see the circumstances of this latest case."

Byron Davies, the Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, said: "This is another hugely worrying case within our NHS that provides further proof of the need for an independent inquiry into standards of care.

"Carwyn Jones and Welsh Labour must make a statement on this case."

A Welsh Government spokesperson said: "We are sorry to hear of this tragic incident and our thoughts are with the family at this very difficult time.

"We expect the Health Board to undertake a full investigation to understand the circumstances that led to sad outcome.

"As this is now the subject of a police investigation it would not be appropriate for us to comment further at this stage.

"We expect Local Health Boards to work closely with the Ambulance Trust to ensure patients are handed over from ambulance crews to the care of A&E staff in a safe and timely manner."

A switch in time could help cut the energy costs

THE Cyd Cymru collective energy switching scheme for Wales has attracted 5,500 residents from across Wales, all keen to cut their energy bills, the Vale Council reported this week.

The scheme is a partnership between the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff councils, and the Energy Savings Trust.

It aims to help people cut their energy bills, by negotiating as a group with energy companies to get the best rates possible for gas and electricity.

Coun Rob Curtis, Vale council cabinet member for the environment and visible services, said

"We hope this scheme will help the many families struggling to pay their fuel

bills.

"What is driving this initiative is the desire to help people gain fairness, stability and better value as energy prices continue to rise.

"I'm told that people could save between £87 and £239, depending on how they pay for their fuel."

The first 'switch' has closed, but there will be a second chance to switch, with registrations open from January 27.

The scheme is open to everyone in Wales, regardless of property type or income, and it is free to sign up with no obligation to switch. Call 0800 0935902 or visit www.cydymru-energy.com for more information.

Are solar farms heading to rural Vale?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Coun Mahoney added: "The nearest panels, measuring 6' 3" in height on raised ground with an accompanying security fence, surely represents an unacceptable intrusion and future blight on this community.

"Surely in the great commercial chase for renewable green subsidies, there must be provision for the protection of decent hard-working residents' property values and quality of life?"

"House owners in West Aberthaw can hardly be accused of NIMBYism, as they already live right next to Aberthaw Power Station and the nearby cement works.

"The ultimate irony of this situation is that the affected homeowners, as well as seeing their properties devalued

by this solar farm, will, along with all Vale residents, also be financially subsidising it, as without the green levy on household utility bills these projects are totally unviable."

Josie Evans said that she was concerned about the loss of agricultural land, and warned other Vale communities that she feared similar applications for solar farms could be in the pipeline.

Her neighbour, Cathy Sheehy, told The GEM: "There are so many brownfield sites around, at Llandow for instance, why put a solar farm on a greenfield site?"

"Look at the ash mound at the power station. They could put solar panels on that and no one would mind!"

Solar farms are granted a licence for 25 years. After that, in theory, the land could be returned to agricultural use.

However, in the Vale Council officers' report that recommended the project be given the go-ahead, the loss of agricultural land was not an issue.

In fact, the report said that a solar farm would "contribute to the viability of existing agricultural holdings through a diversification of income."

The GEM asked INRG Energy for a comment but, unfortunately, at the time of going to press, a reply had not been received.

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New twist in parking row

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The issue generated a great deal of correspondence in The GEM, with some readers claiming that the Highway Code was quite clear that parking was not allowed on either side of a double yellow line.

At the time the story broke, in December, the Vale Council said: "The civil enforcement officers (CEOs) issue penalty charge notices (PCNs) in line with the restrictions indicated on the signs and lines on the highway."

"Should a member of the public receive a PCN that they feel is inappropriate, then there is a process for them to appeal against the notice."

"The appeal will be considered in the first instance by the parking manager and, should there be any issues raised regarding the correctness of the signs, lines or Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) then these will be addressed by the Vale Council Traffic

Management team in due course.

"A considerable effort was made in advance of applying for Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers from the Welsh Government to get the signs, lines and Traffic Regulation Orders correct.

"Inevitably there are still errors which are being corrected as and when they come to light.

"Should the results of the appeal not resolve the matter, then there is an independent adjudication process that can be invoked."

The GEM spoke to one woman who had received a parking ticket. She said that she had paid, but intended to appeal.

In the light of the new information, she said that she would definitely be appealing, adding: "If it is not on council-owned land, then the issuing of the ticket may have been illegal."



Beatrice Hayball-Jones alongside the section of river that runs through her farm at Treoes in the Vale.

Fishing rights dispute: Farmers Union of Wales claims victory

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) has claimed a victory in its fight on behalf of Glamorgan farmers who had notices served on them by the Land Registry.

An FUW spokesman said: "The notice related to an attempt by the trustees of the Ogmere Angling Association to register a 'profit a prendre', which would have given them sole and exclusive fishing rights on the River Ogmere and its tributaries.

"More than 140 separate notices were served on landowners, but the union has now learned the Land Registry has cancelled these applications."

He continued: "The FUW was involved in objecting on behalf of a number of members, in addition to writing directly to the Ogmere Angling Association trustees and the Land Registry and believes

our involvement has helped ensure this matter does not proceed."

The FUW county executive officer, Glyn Davies, said: "The processing of these applications by the Land Registry has cost a great deal of taxpayers' money and has also caused a huge amount of distress and anger to landowners involved in this attempt to register a profit a prendre on their land."

"Even more alarming is the fact that this is the second attempt by the trustees of the Ogmere Angling Association to register these rights, following the first application in 2008, which was again cancelled by the Land Registry."

"In light of these applications, the FUW would welcome a review by the Welsh and Westminster

Governments of the profit a prendre system."

One FUW member who complained about receiving a notice, Beatrice Hayball-Jones, said she is "extremely glad" of the support given to her by the union and is adamant its involvement played a significant role in causing the failure of the attempt to register fishing rights on her land.

In response, the Ogmere Angling Association issued the following statement:

"The association and its lawyers are currently considering the issues surrounding the application for registration of the association's fishing rights."

"The association is satisfied that its existing rights continue and that its members remain entitled to exercise those rights as they always have done."

"The association has no further comment to make at this stage."

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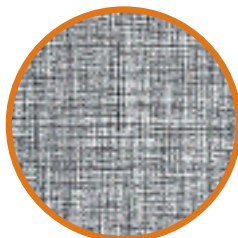
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'KEY STAGE 2 SUCCESS...' Vale primary is 'Top of the Form' in whole of Wales!



ABOVE:
"Three cheers for us!"

A BARRY primary school has been rated top throughout the whole of Wales in a crucial area of education.

Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig in College Road, Barry, ranked first in 'Key Stage 2' out of 1,321 schools across the country.

The achievement, revealed in a national survey, was announced on January 15. The survey listed every primary school in Wales according to 21 different government approved measures.

The survey did not focus only on academic achievement, but also examined how well schools helped pupils to make progress.

Overall, Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig was listed an impressive eighth place in the whole of Wales. Pupils, staff

and governors were "thrilled that the achievements had been recognised".

Headteacher Sian Owen said: "This is an exceptional achievement for Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig and we are all incredibly excited and proud.

"All pupils, staff, governors and parents work hard in support of the school and fully deserve to be recognised in this way for the progress made by every pupil in the school."

The Vale Council hailed it a notable achievement.

Coun Chris Elmore, the cabinet member for children's services, said: "To be ranked first in Wales is a fantastic accomplishment. I am delighted that all the hard work by everyone at the school has been acknowledged."

BOYS' TEAM EDGED OUT



A TEAM of three from 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade took part in the second round of the BB National Table Tennis competition on January 18.

Unfortunately, they were knocked out of the competition, but it was the closest match we have played. Well done to Michael Ellis, Jake Newton and Morgan Edwards (above).

A team of four junior boys will be travelling to Cardiff tomorrow (January 24) for the board games competition.

They will compete against other Boys' Brigade companies from around Wales at Connect 4, dominoes, draughts and snakes and ladders. Good luck to them!

D Chapman

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Gang were caught breaking into empty cannabis factory

A GANG of four men had a shock when they broke into a cannabis factory in Barry to discover that all the plants growing the drug had been taken away, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

The police were swiftly on the scene and arrested two men hiding in a nearby garden. Another was caught when spotted by a police helicopter climbing over a fence, after losing a shoe, said prosecutor Tracey Lloyd-Nesling.

Daniel Whelan (29) of Bryn Gwili, Pencoed, Geraint Lodwick (22), of Rhymney, Cardiff, Ian Lang (36) of Rogerston, Newport, and Mohammed Hafiz (26) of Barry Road, Barry, each admitted a charge of burglary. Whelan was

jailed for 40 weeks and Lodwick and Lang for 32 weeks. The sentences were suspended for 18 months, and each was also ordered to carry out 180 hours of unpaid work.

Hafiz, who was said to have previous convictions for burglary, was jailed for 18 months. The first three defendants were ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

Ms Lloyd-Nesling said they broke into what was a disused cannabis factory in Barry Road, Barry, but when they got in, they found there was no cannabis.

They fled the scene - but the police arrived swiftly and carried out arrests.

Judge Daniel Williams said: "You four formed a team to burglarise a house. Your true target was cannabis. You used a Mercedes

Sprint van and the police were forced to use a helicopter to arrest Hafiz."

David Pinnell for Whelan said he had a productive family life and custody would undo his good work in the past.

Adam Sharpe for Lodwick, said that at the time of the offence, he had been taking cannabis and cocaine, but had since addressed his use of drugs.

Lang's counsel, Hash Salman, urged the court to draw back from a custodial sentence and added that reflectively, he was a man of good character.

Kevin Seal for Hafiz, said he fell into the category because of past convictions, where he could have received a three-year sentence.

SERIAL BURGLAR GETS ALMOST SEVEN YEARS

A SERIAL burglar who waged a campaign of crime in the Penarth, Dinas Powys and Barry areas has been jailed for six years, eight months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Craig Dibble, 28, often broke into the homes of pensioners and once disturbed an 11-year-old girl, who was staying with her grandparents.

Said Judge Stephen Hopkins QC: "Burglary is not simply an offence against property which can sometimes be replaced. It is an offence against the person as well, and people believe their homes have been violated."

Dibble, of Cornwall Road, Barry, admitted 11 charges involving burglary, stealing a car, stealing car number plates, driving while disqualified, shoplifting and taking a car without consent.

He also asked the court to take into consideration three further offences of burglary.

The judge said Dibble had started committing crime when he was 14 and the present offences could only be described as a campaign, which began within a few weeks of his last release from prison.

Some of the burglaries terrified victims and one householder had nightmares.

The 11-year-old, who spotted Dibble in her bedroom dressed in black, was "frightened stiff", but pretended to be asleep and "brave and clever", telephoned her grandparents in the next bedroom.

Prosecutor John Lloyd said Dibble bur-

gled a house in St Fagans Avenue, Barry, while the pensioner occupants were asleep, took the car keys and drove off in their Ford Ka.

The following day, he stole a £160 jacket from the House of Fraser store in Cardiff, and afterwards drove while disqualified.

A store detective tried to stop him, and was thrown from the side of the vehicle but not injured.

Dibble then stole number plates from another Ford Ka and broke into a house in Pencoed Road, Barry, when the occupants were asleep.

He tried to break into a house in Churchfields Road, Barry, and was seen putting his arm through an open window.

Later, he burgled a house in the Vale. This was the occasion when he entered the child's bedroom.

After stealing a further set of number plates, said Mr Lloyd, he was spotted driving a stolen VW Polo with false number plates and was arrested.

On some occasions, said Mr Lloyd, he left fingerprints and footprints at the scene. At one house, he removed security lights and among the items stolen were irreplaceable engagement and wedding rings.

When arrested in November, he denied the offences, and said: "No comment" to questions.

One victim, said Mr Lloyd, had a terminal illness and could not use his vehicle to go to hospital, which made him anxious and angry.

Another victim said stress had affected her and her husband and the insurance company would not reimburse them because the window had been partially open. One victim said: "I can't believe someone

would do something like this to us."

The 11-year-old, said Mr Lloyd, was badly affected and the family had considered counselling. One woman said: "Dibble has taken my security away from me."

He was said to have convictions for 53 offences, 12 for burglary and others for robbery, causing grievous bodily harm, and drugs offences.

His counsel Laurence Jones, said: "He feels disgust and shame. He must dramatically turn his life around because of the effect of what he has done on others. At last, he realises the impact of his behaviour."

"None of the premises," he said "were targeted or ransacked, and when his sentence is over, in a scheme being tested in south Wales, he will meet some of his victims, if they wish, when he wants to apologise."

'Meow Meow' sales: two brothers are sentenced

TWO brothers have been sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court for being involved with the drug mephedrone, also known as 'Meow Meow'.

Gavin Jones (31) of King Edward Street, Bridgend, and Dale Jones (24) of Glen Garw, Bridgend, each admitted possessing the drug with intent to supply.

Dale Jones received 16 weeks imprisonment and Gavin Jones was made subject to a community order for a year involving 180 hours unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay costs of £400 and a £60 victim surcharge.

Prosecutor Nuhu Gobir said that on 5am on December 9, the police were informed of two people acting suspiciously in the Blaengarw area.

They made a search and spotted Dale Jones on a motorcycle.

"He was grinding his teeth, sweating profusely and there was a sweet

smell coming from him," said Mr Gobir.

He said: "I've got stuff on me." He was arrested and found with drugs worth up to £160. He had £189 in cash.

The police went to an address in Blaengarw and spoke to Gavin Jones, who was arrested after a quantity of mephedrone was seen in a bottle on the table.

He said his brother had brought the drug to the house, but forgot to take it when he left. It was said to be worth approximately £2,200.

Rhodri Chudleigh, for Dale Jones, said he had no previous convictions for drugs offences.

Hugh Wallace, for Gavin Jones, said he was a person of positive, good character and cared for his mother, who had suffered 70 per cent burns in a fire. He had been taking drugs to get away from his problems, he added.

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GLAMORGAN IRON HORSE SOCIETY IN CHARITY RUN FOR AIR AMBULANCE

THE Glamorgan Iron Horse Society held one of its regular charity tractor runs on Sunday, January 19, in aid of Wales Air Ambulance.

More than 60 tractors – along with owners – took part. It was an impressive sight as the convoy left Tondy, crossing Coity Common, ending up in Aberkenfig.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
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CLASSIC CAR SHOW HELPS CHARITY

THE Vale of Glamorgan Classic Car Show is returning to Sully on bank holiday Monday, May 26.

Dinas Powys Rotary Club has announced its chosen charity this year is the "Noah's Ark Appeal", the only charity exclusively fundraising for the Children's Hospital for Wales.

Further details or an entry form can be found on the show web site www.valeofglamorganclassiccarshow.net.

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NEW BUS SERVICE WILL CONNECT TO VALE VILLAGES

FOLLOWING negotiations between the Vale Council and New Adventure Travel, it has been agreed that from March 10, Service 303/304 from Bridgend will be extended to Cardiff.

This will provide a through bus service between Bridgend and Cardiff, connecting many villages on the route, including Llantwit Major, St Athan, Rhosce and Barry.

As part of the changes, Llantwit Major to Cardiff

there will also be an earlier journey to Bridgend to cater for Bridgend College students and an improved service for Llandough Hospital.

The Sunday service 303/304 route will run on a standard timetable and will now run via Port Road West, Colcot Road and Jenner Road. To allow for this change, Sunday Service 303/304 from Pontypridd Road in Barry will no longer run and instead Pontypridd Road and Severn Avenue will continue to be served by service 100.

Service 95 from Llantwit Major to Cardiff

will have its route altered to fit alongside Service 303/304. This will result in some changes to service 95, full details of which will be available on the council's website.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation said: "I am pleased to see that Service 303/304 has been extended to Cardiff, as this will open up even more travel opportunities for passengers."

"It is particularly pleasing that we have been able to work with one of our local operators to secure an extension to a service at a time when money for services is hard to come by."

Service 95 from Llantwit Major to Cardiff will standardise its route to the Service 303/304, resulting in the loss of the current Monday to Saturday evening services in the following areas:

- Pontypridd Road in Barry - Service 95 - will instead run via Port Road West, Colcot Road and Jenner Road between the Cwm Ciddy roundabout and Romilly Schools, where the service can still be accessed.

- Barry Island - Service 95 will not run

any operation into Barry Island after the one-way system around the Ship Inn. However, the area will still benefit from a regular rail service provision from Barry Island to Cardiff and Sunday bus Service 96 from Barry to Cardiff.

- Barry between Barry town centre and Palmerston Road via Gibbonsdown and Coldbrook - Service 95 will instead run via Wyndham Street, Court Road, Gladstone Road, Weston Square and Cardiff Road between Barry town centre and Palmerston Road junction with Cardiff Road. The Council's supported evening Service 94 Barry to Cardiff will continue to serve Cadoxton and Coldbrook in this area.

- Llandough, North beyond the hospital main gate and Leckwith Village - Service 95 will instead return to the Merrie Harrier junction from Llandough Hospital and run into Cardiff City Centre via Barry Road, Cogan Spur, Cardiff Bay Retail Park, Grangetown and Cardiff Bay.

Consultant meets Paddy at Slimming World awards

IT definitely wasn't a case of 'no like, no lighty' when a Slimming World consultant from Barry met comedian and TV presenter Paddy McGuinness at an awards ceremony.

Annamarie Vincent, who runs a slimming group at Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry, every Thursday, and at St Francis Millennium Centre every Wednesday, was delighted to get a chance to "cuddle up to Paddy" when he co-hosted the Slimming World Awards with the organisation's chair and founder Margaret Miles-Bramwell.

Bolton-born Paddy, who shot to fame in Channel 4 comedy *Phoenix Nights* alongside school friend Peter Kay before presenting *Take Me Out*, said: "I have to admit the most I knew about Slimming World before the awards was a gag in Peter's routine that refers to Slimming World as being a £1 cheaper than its competitors!"

"Jokes aside, I was genuinely amazed to hear about what a difference consultants like Annamarie make to people's lives."

Annamarie said meeting Paddy at the event,

which was held at Birmingham's International Convention Centre, was the cherry on the top of a great year for the Barry Slimming World group.

"Obviously the most important thing of all is that the groups have lost weight and improved their health throughout 2013 and I'm so proud of all of my members - many of them have achieved their target weights and been able to do things they never thought possible."

Annamarie can be contacted on 01446 736534.



ABOVE: Slimming World Consultant Annamarie Vincent meets comedian and TV presenter Paddy McGuinness.

Audit Office gives council thumbs up

THE Wales Audit Office has found the Vale Council's finances to be "well managed", and was satisfied that it has appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the latest annual review by the Auditor General.

The audit found no major issues with the council's financial procedures or its accounts. The accounts were audited on September 26 and were found to be a true and fair view of the council's financial position and transactions.

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the council, was "very satisfied" with the

report: "It is good to have an outside body confirm that our financial procedures are working well and, in particular, to find that the Auditor General considers that we have arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness."

"Like all Welsh local authorities, we are facing tough financial times, with more belt-tightening to come, but we will ensure that we will continue to manage our finances competently and prudently, to ensure the best services possible for local people."

The letter from the Audit Office outlining its findings can be found on the council's website, www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, as part of the minutes for the cabinet meeting of January 13.



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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT... QUESTION IS: WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LOST £17.7 MILLION?

I WAS saddened again last week to read in The GEM reports from Pride In Barry that showed Wales' largest town has been short-changed by £17.7m.

The sale of land on Barry's Waterfront five years ago, raised close to £50M and Barry has seen very little of this.

Pride in Barry, a campaign group aimed at bringing people together to help the town's regeneration, led the charge for Barry to regain some of this money.

Locals felt angry that money had been taken away from Barry and that we had the right to expect a share of the profit. Without gaining an element of the proceeds of the sale of the land, the Welsh Government would have acted in no better way than asset strippers.

As a result of Pride in Barry's campaign some years ago, the town was awarded Regeneration status, with a grant of £9m split over three years.

The Barry Regeneration Board was established to develop and co-ordinate regeneration projects across the town.

Unfortunately, the conditions on the money were considerable and the first year ended up going on local authority pet projects, such as the



Vale MP ALUN CAIRNS reports to GEM readers

refurbishment of playgrounds etc.

Although these have a part to play, they are not likely to deliver the economic regeneration we want to see.

The Welsh Government also stated that no money could be carried over between the years. This meant that if there was a major project that needed funding, then it was impossible to deliver. If the money was not spent in one year, then it was lost.

The ultimate question must be

whether the majority of people in Barry can state the impact of the funding.

The board gave up their time and achieved a considerable amount in trying circumstances. I can only imagine how much more they could have achieved with a free hand.

I have previously asked for open and honest discussion on regeneration; and I do so again. There should be a non-partisan collaboration on how the Vale councillors and the Welsh Government intend to return investment to Barry.

We need to know what has happened to the £17.7m. I hope that Pride in Barry could play a key part in bringing about such a meeting.

The Collins report that offered sustainable wealth-creating opportunities for Barry has been shelved and the Vale's regeneration bid has been rejected. These come on top of our poor funding settlement, which leaves us as one of Wales' worst-funded communities.

In a nutshell, we have one of the poorest funding settlements from the Welsh Government; they excluded us from its regeneration plans; have left us out of the Assisted Area Map, and taken away £17m of our own money to develop other parts of Wales.

This is a desperate situation for which those in control need to be held to account.

Two Vale women nominated for St David Awards

A SCHOOL crossing patrol lady and a cancer charity fundraiser from the Vale, are amongst the finalists for the first St David Awards.

The finalists were announced by the First Minister, Carwyn Jones at a ceremony sponsored by the communication experts, Golley Slater, at the Wales Millennium Centre.

The St David Awards scheme is unique to Wales. It recognises the achievements of people from all walks of life, regardless of their origin or background, each nominated by members of the public.

Karin Williams, a school crossing patrol lady from Rhosce, is a finalist in the bravery category after she instinctively went to protect youngsters, by putting herself between them and a car that had lost control in front of Rhws Primary School in June 2013.

She suffered serious injuries in the accident, including breaking a shoulder and both legs, and spent the following nine weeks in hospital.

Lara Cowp, from Dinas Powys, has been chosen as a finalist in the citizenship category, for her work in raising funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust Unit at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff – the only one of its kind in Wales.

To date, Lara has raised more than £50,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, with more than £11,000 raised in 2013.

The First Minister said: "I am told that picking finalists from the many worthy entrants received was no easy task, but the people who have been chosen exemplify the reason I established the awards."

"I wanted to be able to recognise the extraordinary achievements made by the people of Wales, people who I meet regularly during

my visits across the country, people who go above and beyond to make a difference to life in Wales.

"I do not envy the task of picking the winner of each category, although all are deserving and should feel very proud of their achievements."

"I now look forward to the actual awards ceremony in March."

The finalists were decided by an independent panel of judges, chaired by Lord David Rowe Beddoe.

The winner for each category will be announced in an award ceremony at the Royal Welsh College for Music and Drama in Cardiff on Thursday, March 13.

It will be televised by S4C, with English commentary available.

Call centre tour

VALE Council-led Barry Communities First have organised a site visit for job seekers to Admiral Insurance in Cardiff on Thursday, January 23 – to learn about work in a call centre

Barry Communities First are providing a free bus ride from Holm View Leisure Centre at 8.30am (departing from Admiral at 12pm).



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College course 'makes a difference' to Mind in the Vale volunteers

CARDIFF and Vale College and Mind in the Vale recently held a ceremony to congratulate students who qualified on courses arranged between the college and the charity.

Held at Barry Library and hosted by Vale AM Jane Hutt, the ceremony saw the presentation of certificates to Mind volunteers from across the Vale. Several could not attend the event, as they have found employment since completing their courses.

Barney Sanders, Mind in the Vale project worker, said: "This is a celebration of our volunteers and a celebration of partnership working. I don't think any of this could have happened without the hard work and commitment of Cardiff and Vale College."

"People have gone into full time employment and one is studying to be a nurse. This has been an integral part of these people's recovery."

Those who have found jobs since taking the course include Jodie Seamer, who



CAVC Mind candidates with Jane Hutt and Kay Martin on the steps of Barry Library.

volunteered for Western Vale Mind and is now working in Waitrose since taking an NVQ.

Another success story is Royston Scott, who has progressed from a QCF course and is now at Swansea University studying to be a community psychiatric nurse. Their

achievements were said to be the result of just one part of the college's community work, where expert CAVC staff travel across the region, taking support and training out to people who might not be able to go to a college site.

The AM offered her congratulations to all of the graduates: "It's a huge achievement, which could not be delivered without this partnership."

"We are so fortunate to have a college here in Barry like Cardiff and Vale College, and such dedicated staff."

CAVC vice-principal for curriculum, Kay Martin, said: "I always feel privileged to be here with Jane to present these certi-

ficates. This is why I come in to work in the mornings. Events like these are very important to us."

"I would also like to thank the CAVC staff for their work."

"They go to where they are needed and that is something that I think the college does very well," she added.

Usage of new rural bus service to be monitored

A NEW trial bus service is now operating Monday to Friday between 8:15am and 6:15pm, offering transport from Llantwit Major to Cowbridge and Cowbridge to Bridgend town centre, linking 17 Vale villages and hamlets.

The Vale Leader, Coun Neil Moore and Coun Lis Burnett welcomed the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, Edwina Hart to the council's offices in Barry.

The Minister said: "I am pleased to see the Vale is trialling this service to meet the public transport needs of rural areas."

"I want to see new solutions for delivering an efficient, sustainable bus service across Wales and look forward to seeing how the new Greenlinks service performs."

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation said:

"The Leader and I welcomed the opportunity to brief the Minister on our Greenlinks bus service and we also explained how the new bus service will provide an essential currently missing link between Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Bridgend."

"As the service is



Coun Neil Moore, Coun Lis Burnett and Edwina Hart AM with the Greenlinks bus.

being introduced on a trial basis, the council will be monitoring usage, so I urge people to pick up the phone or visit our website and reserve their seats."

Fares on this new service will range between £3 and £4 return for adults and £1.50 to £2.00 return for children. Passengers will be able to use their Welsh concessionary travel passes on the service.

The bus service will also serve the villages of Llanmaes, Sigingstone, Llandow, Llysorwen, Llanblethian, Pentre Meyrick, Penllyn, Craig Penllyn, City, Ruthin, St Mary Hill, Fferm Goch, Llangan, Treoes, Colwinston, Corntown and Ewenny. Pick-up and drop off points will be from bus stops or agreed locations. Pick up times will be agreed the day before travel.

To request a seat on the service, call 0800 294 1113 by 12 noon, one working day before travel. Regular weekly bookings will also be accepted and regular users will be able to

book multiple trips by one phone call.

For more information, visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Greenlinks or telephone 0800 294 1113.

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AS we start the New Year, I felt it was the perfect opportunity for me to give my thanks to our brilliant local community for the support they continue to give us, especially throughout our 70th birthday celebrations last year.

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A lot has changed in

LETTER TO EDITOR

the last 70 years, but one thing that's remained constant is the support for our charity shops in the local community, something we're very grateful for.

The services we provide to cancer patients and their families in communities across Wales would simply not be possible without it.

We all sometimes get that one present that wasn't quite right or that we already have, so why not pop in and see us in one of our shops, donate your unwanted Christmas gifts and give them a new home?

We'd love to see you and say thank you for your continued support.

On behalf of everyone at Tenovus, a big thank you and a very happy 2014.

Natalie Kell, (Retail Area Manager, Tenovus).

TAX HELP ACROSS THE VALE

TOP advice

TAXHELP for Older People (TOP) will offer free professional advice to older people on a restricted income, with income tax queries and/or problems at Roz Couzens' Chiropractic Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB on February 3 from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary. To access the TOP's helpline telephone 0845 601 3321, or 01308 488066.

Home visits can also be arranged via this helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

• Free tax advice for older people is also available at Age Connect Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry from a qualified tax professional on Monday, January 27 (9.30am to 11.30am). No appointment is needed. Telephone 01446 732385 for further information.

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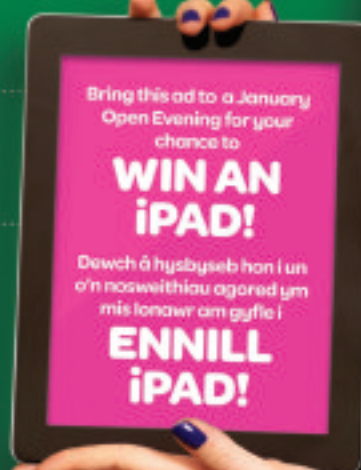
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RECENTLY, four Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron flew in a modern Vigilant at MoD St Athan; to experience at first hand the sensation of glider flying.

Arriving early in the morning at 634 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, the Cadets were given detailed safety, weather, flying and operational briefs relating to the day's activities. The Cadets were introduced to their pilots and ground staff who would be looking after them.

The aim of the day was to gain experience of flying the glider under the guidance of the pilot, using the control column and rudder pedals. Each flight typically lasting 20 - 30 minutes, flying at about 1,500 feet, is sufficient to carry out all the training on each particular sortie, as well as providing excellent aerial views of the Vale. The Cadets were

actually surprised at just how easy it felt to fly the glider. Jake Paterson, Jordan Saunders, Joe Bailey and Rhys Horton passed their gliding induction course, with 'flying colours'.

Jake said the flight was "really exciting and I can't wait to fly in the Vigilant again; it was an amazing flight."

The Air Cadets also undertake adventure training, shooting, sport, field craft, project work and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, expeditions

and camps to RAF stations.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron have vacancies for boys and girls between 13 - 18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays (7pm - 9.30pm) behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can phone the Squadron on 01446 747734; email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information.
JASON HORTON



ABOVE: RHYS HORTON.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Out and About with The GEM

The Wolf of Wall Street makes essential viewing

IN terms of great actor/director partnerships, that of Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio has yielded some incredible results, with their latest, *The Wolf of Wall Street*, being spoken of as their best yet.

Based on a true story, DiCaprio plays Jordan Belfort, a stockbroker whose *laissez faire* attitude to financial management makes him a wealthy man; but when Belfort's actions are closely monitored, before he knows it, the world he has built for himself is in danger of crumbling around him...

With Leonardo DiCaprio, Martin Scorsese appears to have developed the

same understanding that the director shared with Robert De Niro, the pair having made some exceptional films together.

The Wolf of Wall Street lives up to the pre-release hype entirely, the film the best offering star and director have delivered together yet, and in Leonardo DiCaprio's case, the actor offers what may just be the best performance of a career not short of high lights.

The three-hour epic is a pacy piece of work, the running time passing by incredibly quickly, which is a testament to both the direction of Martin Scorsese and creator of TV's *Boardwalk Empire*, Terence Winter's vibrant script.

The notion of the pursuit of the American dream has been some-



by GARETH JAMIESON
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thing filmmakers have been exploring keenly in recent months (both *Pain & Gain* and *Nebraska* have tackled the notions of money being the answer to life's problems), but *The Wolf of Wall Street* cloaks its cautionary tale with humour and no little scandal, the rise

and fall of Jordan Belfort delivered with panache and a pleasing lack of moralising.

While Winter's script, and Scorsese's direction, celebrate the excesses on show, arguments that they are glamourising such illegal dealings are wide of the mark.

These are characters living life to the fullest, but beneath the yachts, fast cars and drugs there is nothing to show for it, Belfort and his co-workers slowly losing track of reality as their circumstances change.

The characters are written with pin-sharp precision by Winter, fully fleshed and achingly real. While the film starts out as comedy, albeit on the dark side, as Belfort's world starts falling around him and drama replaces the humour, the film shifts gears effortlessly.

With such meaty material, Martin Scorsese's direction is livelier and edgier than it has been in many years. While he can hardly be accused of dipping in form, his recent work has felt more staid. Here, it feels as though he has been given material that allows him to cut loose.

The 'rise and fall' aspect of the story brings to mind *Goodfellas* as a point of reference, but Scorsese's direction isn't a case of reliving past glories, more showing how much hunger and desire he still has.

He brings out what may just be a career-best performance from his muse, Leonardo DiCaprio, who similarly delivers a 'gloves-off' performance that slides between gears with precision and seemingly no little effort.

Belfort isn't a particularly endearing charac-

ter on paper, but DiCaprio never really hangs on the character's shortfalls; instead, with a beaming grin and a casual attitude towards substance abuse, he lunges headlong into Belfort and comes out with a truly incredible turn.

The cast is of such quality you can take to the bank how strong the performances will be.

Of particular note are Jonah Hill, who is really blooming as a dramatic performer, his bufoonish Donnie starting off as a figure of fun but slowly turning into a figure of tragedy.

Newcomer Margot Robbie is noteworthy as Belfort's second wife, Rob Reiner is good value as his father, and its always a pleasure seeing Kyle Chandler, as the FBI agent on Belfort's tail, on the big screen, among others.

A richly compelling story, *The Wolf of Wall Street* is an exceptional film - a reminder of the skill of Scorsese's direction and an electric lead turn from Leonardo DiCaprio making for an incredible thrill ride.

VERDICT: A mesmerising look at greed and the American dream gone awry, *The Wolf of Wall Street* is an epic film full of punch and verve.

Martin Scorsese's direction hasn't seemed so urgent in years, Leonardo DiCaprio's performance is perhaps the finest of his career yet, and it all comes wrapped in a fine screenplay from Terence Winter.

The result is an absolute delight of a film. *Essential viewing.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Goodfellas* (1990), *American Psycho* (2000).

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on January 24 from 4pm - 5pm at Dinas Powys Parish Hall.

Railway society

THE Barry Railway Society's next meeting is in Penarth Conservative Club, 15 Stanwell Road, Penarth, CF5 2EZ (opposite the railway station) on January 30 at 7.30pm.

Entitled 'Railways in Wales on digital video', it is a two-hour big screen presentation of both steam and modern traction, by local video photographer and railway enthusiast, Mike Wilcock.

All are welcome. Entrance fee is £1.

Charity's special Welsh month

A Welsh charity is holding events to raise funds between Santes Dwynwen (Welsh patron saint of lovers') day on January 25 and Valentine's Day, on February 14.

Welsh Hearts are aiming to raise much-needed cash to buy defibrillators and emergency life saving equipment throughout Wales.

For opera lovers, there are two Santes Dwynwen opera nights - one at Stefano's Restaurant in Pontcanna on Thursday, January 23, and another in Bellini's Restaurant, Park Place, on Saturday, January 25.

There is also the Ten Tenors Concert on Sunday, February 16 at St David's Hall with tenors including Rhys Meirion and Wynne Evans and Aled Hall.

For romantics, the charity is holding its 'Heart to Heart Ball' at The Park Plaza Hotel in Cardiff (tickets £39.50).

For fashionistas, there is a fashion show at The VIP Lounge, Mermaid Quay with spring clothes from Poppers, @Fab, Robyn Coles Milliner (tickets £10).

For further information, go to: Welshhearts.org/heartto-heart.

To support Welsh Hearts in Heart to Heart Month, contact the fundraising office on 02920 786521.

WHAT'S ON... IN BRIEF

Spring walk

ART4U is holding a walk in Barry on Saturday, February 1 to welcome spring. Meet under the shelters on the lake in the Knap Gardens at 3.30pm.

Floral society

MEMBERS of the Barry Floral Society are looking forward to a very enjoyable 2014, commencing on January 28 with the annual general meeting.

Tuesday, February 11 will see a meeting with members producing a design of their choice.

The first demonstration meeting is on February 25, when a good friend of the club, Mrs Gloria Davies of Ammanford, will present 'It's a passion'.

Meetings are held at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, commencing at 2.15pm. New members are always welcome.

Vale Mayor's charity coffee
THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is hosting a charity coffee morning in aid of

Amelia Trust Farm on Tuesday, January 28 from 10.30am-12 noon in the Civic Office.

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, January 30, retired architect and CAS honorary member John Phillips, will give a talk on the subject of the society's Keith James Trophy, entitled 'The city is a beehive'.

Bring any medium of choice to help develop ideas. The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm-9pm, and visitors and new members are welcome.

For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Bird watch

THERE will be a Big Farmland Bird Count 2014 at Amelia Trust Farm, Five Mile Lane, Barry CF62 3AS on Sunday, February 2 at 10am, to identify birds as part of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust's campaign.

Bring your own binoculars/scope and strong boots or wellington boots. This is a free event.

For further information, contact Rose at roseanneh@amelia-trust.org.uk or call 01446 782030.

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(Quotes taken from Trip Advisor)

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LOCAL author Phil Carradice has had more than 40 books published and his latest is *The Ships Of Pembroke Dockyard* (Amberley Publishing, £15.99).

This book looks at the ships created during the 112-year history of the dockyard, covering their construction, careers and, in many cases, their demise as well.

Almost 300 ships were built at Pembroke Dock, the only Royal Naval

dockyard ever to exist in Wales, but only two major conflicts took place, so most Pembroke ships served in the constant series of skirmishes that marked the growth of the British Empire.

Those small colonial engagements helped give the Royal Navy a standing that has hardly ever been equalled before or since, and provide fascinating stories for the reader. BRIAN LEE

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'CUT NUMBER OF COUNCILS' PLAN SPARKS LIVELY DEBATE

POLITICIANS in the Vale have been keen to comment on the Williams Commission's review into public services – where the headline proposal has been that the number of local authorities in Wales should be cut from 22 to either 10, 11 or 12.

The review prompted a regional AM to say it was "almost inevitable" that the Vale would be merged with Cardiff.

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the Vale Council, said: "It is a significant report and as a result it will take some time to go through the contents and absorb its findings.

"Many individuals and organisations have submitted evidence, but I am keen to stress the impact any potential reorganisation could have on the community, not least in terms of jobs, the cost of reorganisation and service disruption caused as a result.

"I have taken a keen interest in the review, but I have not argued for a full scale structural reorganisation and believe that is not necessary, affordable or required at this time.

"Now the report has been published it will require considerable time and analysis to do justice to its contents. That being the case, it would be inappropriate to respond prematurely.

"However, I recognise that opinions within local government across Wales will vary and there may be pressure for change, particularly where the austerity measures may challenge the sustainability of certain councils. This is certainly not the case in the Vale.

"I also recognise that the debate will continue for the moment, but I await a formal response from Welsh Government, which I hope will be soon and allow us to

debate the merits of the Commission's report fully.

"The Review has clearly identified options for 10, 11 and 12 local authorities rather than the current 22.

"It is also clear that the report has profound implications for service delivery and for the Local Government workforce. It is therefore imperative that all stakeholders have as full a debate as possible before coming to any conclusions, and decisions on the future of our services, which cannot be taken lightly.

"We already live in a time of unprecedented cuts in public spending but we also know that demands on public services have never been greater.

"The economy is very fragile and we in Wales can ill afford the loss of a large number of good quality jobs, which are distributed around all parts of Wales, including some of our most deprived communities at this time.

"It should be remembered that the Williams Commission was an independent review and although the Welsh Government is not bound by its findings, we must know where the Government stands on these recommendations.

"If there is to be change, then we will need clarity on timescales, transitional arrangements, service and workforce implications and above all how the massive and substantial costs of any changes are to be met.

"Whatever happens, I and my colleagues in the Vale of Glamorgan will work constructively with the Welsh Government in shaping the future of Wales' public services.

"However, it is important to remember that the public services are major local employers and deliver services that enable individuals to lead healthy and fulfilled lives within sustainable communi-

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

ties. I look forward to a full debate on these issues in the coming months."

Commenting on the recommendations, regional AM, Andrew RT Davies, said:

"It is important to remember that at this stage, these remain proposals and it is now up to the Welsh Government to come forward with a response.

"Ultimately, given the public speculation and the on-going uncertainty, I am hopeful that the Welsh Government will make their position clear sooner rather than later.

"From a local perspective, it is almost inevitable now that the Vale will be amalgamated with Cardiff, as is the case with health in the area.

"However, it should be remembered that big is not always beautiful. Since its formation in 2009, Cardiff & Vale UHB has been through a number of chairs and chief executives and has a far from impressive record of service delivery.

"This should not be solely a question of financing local government. The whole process should be underpinned by a debate about what services we as residents expect local authorities to deliver. Ultimately it would be a sad day for democracy in Wales if any systemic reform leads communities to feel greater disconnect with local authorities."

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "The Williams Commission has produced an extensive report which will now be considered by all those in Welsh public services.

"As the Assembly Member for the Vale, I will be listening to all those who engage in the debate and discussions, feeding back views as we consider the way forward. At a time of continuing aus-

terity and public service cuts, it is vital that we look at all options to safeguard and improve our public services."

Launching its own report Catch 22 (3), Electoral Reform Society Cymru (ERSC) has raised concerns that larger councils may weaken local democracy, and has warned the Welsh Government not to rush into it.

Steve Brooks, the director of the ERSC, said: "There's a real danger that in moving towards mergers, local democracy could suffer. Larger councils could make voters feel more disconnected and less able to influence decisions which affect their everyday lives.

"Evidence from Europe suggests that this can undermine the public's confidence in local government and its ability to respond to local needs.

"The Williams Commission rightly addresses these concerns, but in the push to re-organise, it's important that the Welsh Government takes time to protect local, democratic engagement.

"Plans should be brought forward to give neighbourhoods real power to make local decisions. Welsh Ministers should also revisit the 2002 Sunderland Commission report which recommended a fair voting system for local government."

"Without voting reform, there's an added danger that these larger councils will become one-party states, which will only further compound councils' governance problems"

Paul Haley, the chairman of the 'Pride in Barry' group, felt that Barry would benefit from a merger with Cardiff.

He said: "It will be a chance to explore potential new opportunities for the town, for example, a greater link for the Barry beaches with Cardiff and additional image building and promotional events.

"Pride In Barry would welcome positive engagement in the next steps consultation to ensure that the views of the Barry community are represented and the best outcome for Barry is achieved."

The Leader of Plaid Cymru in the Vale, Coun Chris Franks, has urged caution. He said, "The current system is considered outdated by the Welsh Government, but we have to make sure that any change is an improvement.

"Any change needs to be financially sound, with clear information regarding the initial funding required."

He continued, "There's a great deal more to this report than simply cutting the number of councils. For instance there's the future of some aspects of the Health Service, the Fire Service, National Parks and Community Health Councils."

He said that the report also appears to propose some sort of semi-merger between the Fire Service and the Ambulance Service, and that town and community councils are marked for merger as well.

Surprisingly, he said, the report does not make any recommendation concerning the number of councillors that should be in each ward.

Commenting on this, Coun Franks concluded: "This report has much breadth but little depth. Despite many far-reaching recommendations over a wide range of issues, this report contains no reference to the number of councillors or their method of election."

Independent Barry councillor Richard Bertin said: "Although I agree we need to reconfigure councils, I am concerned that we in the Vale will come out the loser. I sincerely hope that everything will not be centred around Cardiff at the expense of us here in the Vale."

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SIX NATIONS RUGBY

2014 FIXTURES



SIX NATIONS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

WALES v Italy 2.30pm
France v England 5pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Ireland v Scotland 3pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Ireland v WALES 2.30pm
Scotland v England 5pm

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

France v Italy 3pm

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

WALES v France 8pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Italy v Scotland 1.30pm
England v Ireland 4pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Ireland v Italy 2.30pm
Scotland v France 5pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

England v WALES 3pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Italy v England 12.30pm
WALES v Scotland 2.45pm
France v Ireland 5pm

WELSH CAMP AIMS TO BLOT OUT CIVIL WAR AS FANS GEAR UP FOR HISTORIC CAMPAIGN

OUTLANDISH though it may seem, the final outcome of the 2014 Six Nations rugby championship which kicks off on Saturday, February 1, may well prove to be determined on the opening weekend – with the main contenders for the title all having a special point to prove, writes **DON JOHN**.

Notorious slow starters Wales, who face last year's surprise package, Italy, at the Millennium Stadium, will be hoping that this time there will be no repeat of their dire first 40 minutes in last year's opening game against Ireland in Cardiff, which, as it turned out, cost them a back-to-back and fourth Grand Slam in nine years.

That 22-30 reverse was put into sharp relief by successive Welsh victories over France, Italy and Scotland, culminating in the shock 30-3 crushing of England's Grand Slam hopes, which clinched the 2013 championship title on a heady night for Welsh rugby at the Millennium Stadium.

Despite a seemingly never-ending injury list, and against a background of bitter off-field conflict between the WRU and the four professional regions, the Welsh camp's hopes are high of maintaining their impressive progress under head coach Warren Gatland and achieving a third successive championship title.

However, badly wounded England, who had come to the Millennium Stadium confident of victory in 2013, will be desperate to avenge their worst defeat to Wales when they meet again, this time at fortress Twickenham on March 9.

Before then, though, the men in white from 'HQ' will face another side whose pride has been hurt, last year's humbled 'wooden spoonists' France, in Paris – also on the opening day of the campaign – in a crunch clash that will immediately remove one of Wales' main Grand Slam rivals from the equation.

The following day, it will be the turn of Ireland – who gave the All Blacks such a tough test in the autumn – to overcome the first challenge to their Six Nations title hopes from the slowly re-building Scots, who like Italy, ended above them in the 2013 results table.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

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SIX NATIONS RUGBY 2014 FIXTURES

Forget off-field discord, stand by for yet another thriller!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

Both the Irish and the French will want to prove a point against the upstart Azzurri, who can no longer be dismissed as international lightweight.

After all, they confounded the form book by defeating Ireland 22-15 and France 23-18 when they met in Rome last year.

All in all, despite the huge uncertainty caused by the off-field distractions that have engulfed the Welsh and European game in recent months, it promises to be another enthralling tournament – with all six nations especially keen to lay down early markers for next year's Rugby World Cup.

Already, the excitement among Welsh supporters is evident, with a 'sold out' sign at the Millennium Stadium for the final match against Scotland on March 15, as they scent a record fourth Grand Slam in the air.

Time will tell if that inimitable optimism is justified.

WALES V ITALY Travel information

Arriva Trains Wales say they will be providing extra train services and additional seating capacity "where possible" – to cater for fans travelling to the Wales v Italy Six Nations game at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on Saturday, February 1.

A spokesperson said: "For the return trip, customers are advised to ensure they make their way to Cardiff Central Station with plenty of time to catch services advertised in the normal timetable, as only a limited number of additional services will be provided beyond 7pm.

"Seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Customers are also advised to buy a return ticket, as they offer better value than two singles, and also to avoid queuing at the ticket machines.

"As usual, the British Transport Police will be on duty, and passengers who are deemed not fit to travel due to excess alcohol consumption, will not be allowed on the trains."

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On your marks for Barnardo's!

THE countdown has already begun for this year's Cardiff Half Marathon on Sunday, October 5, and Barnardo's Cymru is urging its supporters to register and "get training" for the flagship running event.

Runners will be setting off from Cardiff Castle on the 13.1 mile course, taking in the capital city's most iconic landmarks.

Yvonne Rodgers, director Barnardo's Cymru, said: "2014 will be the 12th year of the half marathon in the Welsh capital and Barnardo's are proud to be the official race charity partner.

"The Cardiff Half Marathon is the biggest road race in Wales and the second biggest half marathon in the

UK. Barnardo's needs your support now more than ever to deliver our services to help children and young people who are abused, vulnerable, neglected or living in poverty.

"Money raised will help us run one of our 88 services across Wales, including Seraf, an all-Wales service which helps children and young people who are currently being sexually exploited or are in danger of such exploitation."

The 2013 Lloyds Bank Cardiff Half Marathon was a record-breaker, with over 19,000 registered runners, cheered on by over 40,000 spectators. This year's event will be bigger and better than ever before.

Contact:

facebook.com/BarnardosEvents, or
twitter.com/BarnardosEvents.

Travellers' treat at cafe

LOCAL artist and felt-maker, Pat Johnson, is exhibiting her work in the Travellers Café/Gallery on Platform 1 at Barry Railway Station, Barry.

Vale of Glamorgan Artists help to run the gallery with the Mind in the Vale charity; open weekday mornings 7am until noon.

The exhibition runs until March 14.



Winter Trees
by Pat Johnson.



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Dark mysteries and ghostly spectres from Llanmaes' past

THE village of Llanmaes lies north of Llantwit Major in the Vale, around two miles from the Glamorgan Heritage Coast at Stout Bay.

The Church of St Cadoc (St Cattwg's) was first mentioned in documents from 1254, and is believed to have been built upon an earlier Celtic groundwork.

It was awarded a Grade II listing in 1963, as it has impressive features such as the chancel, the nave, and western tower.

Although most of the church was built earlier, the three bells, the tower and chancel were added in 1632. Other entries referring to the church date to July 17, 1621, with another quotation stating that the chalice is from 1549.

A wooden rood (screen) divides the chancel and nave, and the large font with spectacular rolled mountings on its rim date back to Norman times. A railed tomb devoted to the Nicholl family to the east of the chancel was given Grade II status in 2003.

In the church, dedicated writings are visible, worded in Latin which translates to 'This Belfry was erected at the cost of the parish and friends (well-wishers) to Edward Llewelyn and Ilyd Nicholl, wardens of the Church 1632'. Sir John Nicholl, a relation to Ilyd, was born at the Great House, north of the church.

In the churchyard, a 15th Century Grade II listed Calvary stone cross with four stone steps is a prominent feature.

Burial records refer to the long life of many residents, referring to as far back as 1495. An unusual

SPOOKY TALES by Hayley Williams

allusion suggests that a Battle of Bosworth field veteran Ivan Yorath, in 1485 was 108 years old, something which is highly unlikely. In fact, at the age of 44, he is documented to have lived out the remainder of his life as a fisherman in Llantwit Major.

There is evidence of the remains of a 14th Century Norman Hall or tower called Malifant/Malefant Castle, although no documentation about these erections have ever been unearthed. These sit behind a modern house in fields along the coastal road, where the ruins of a Roman fort are apparent.

Llanmaes House was built around 1540 by James Turbeville. It was Grade II listed in 1962 and is adjacent to the church situated in the ancient part of the village.

Little is known about its inhabitants as documentation does not seem to exist, except that it was enlarged during the 19th Century with a central stairwell and panelled rooms. A drawing room and reception hall were added during the 18th Century.

The Great House itself is lime washed with a dovecoat (Grade II listed 2003) surrounded by beautiful gardens. The three storey building was constructed in renaissance style. The walls, gate piers and gates were awarded Grade II status in 2003.

The focal point of this idyllic village is the village green with its vibrantly painted pump and a wooden bridge stretching across

the stream which flows through the heart of the village.

The Blacksmiths Arms is the only surviving public house in the village, and it gets its name from the old forge which lies opposite.

With such a varied history throughout the years, the tranquil village of Llanmaes may not be as peaceful as it may seem because it attracts visitors of the supernatural kind.

The eerie image of a tall man has been seen on numerous occasions. He has been labelled as the 'Peddler's Ghost' as it is thought that he was a door-to-door salesman of Scottish descent, murdered in a lane near Picketston.

His large skeleton was found buried beside the roadside, a macabre find. Could this ghostly spectre be in search of a respectful burial, unable to rest until this endeavour is complete?

Another lane/track road at Llanmaes is eerily called Gallows Way, aptly named after the Gallows Tree where many citizens met their end. The startling spectacle of phantom black dogs have been seen, prowling the lane as if in search of someone, or even something.

Could these frightful hounds be the faithful companions of the condemned, guarding the site of their former masters?

At the dead of night, peculiar noises have been heard, together with the sound of a mass crowd invisibly running along the track road, followed by something heavy falling to the ground.

Could these mysterious occurrences be linked to a treacherous world beyond our grasp?

hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

Young carers' award

YOUNG people who care for family members have been awarded £800 from Capital FM's Big Christmas Give.

The money will be used by Action for Children-Gweithredu dros Blant's Vale of Glamorgan Young Carers service to provide fun events, such as bowling, cinema trips and play centre visits.

It was awarded to the service by Capital FM from a grant of £15,000, which was raised by Cardiff Round Table, supported by Legal and General.

Debra Emis, children's services manager at Action for Children-Gweithredu dros Blant, said: "These young people don't often have time to enjoy themselves or see friends and even their school work can suffer."

The service provides regular events for more than 70 young people who spend time for others. If you know a young person between the ages of eight to 18 who regularly cares for a relative

and would benefit from support, contact Vale of Glamorgan Young Carers on 01446 724080.

Penarth Computer Club members make plans for busy year

CHAIRMAN Mike J greeted members at our first meeting of 2014 (our AGM) by wishing them a happy and prosperous New Year. He noted the passing of two of our long-standing members recently; Wally and Ron. He said that he had enjoyed his first year as chairman and looked forward to the coming programme, to be decided by the membership after the tea break.

Secretary Mike F briefly reviewed the past year (at our age some of us forget what we were doing last week).

Treasurer Howard presented the financial report which showed a small deficit over the last year. Although we have space for a few more members, the overall financial position was still healthy and no increase was proposed for the annual subscription (£5 since 1992) or for the meeting fees (Members £2, Visitors £3).

All reports were accepted and approved, (the financial report being approved subject to audit).

The existing committee was re-elected without change. Officers are as above and Nic, Rhona, and Kevin S are committee members.

The short formal business meeting was then closed and refreshments enjoyed before re-assembling to discuss the programme content for meetings up to the summer break.

This involved some lively debate that included a degree of friendly banter.

Some of the specifics might be adjusted slightly, but the programme that emerged will be a welcome mixture of new and old style - with the old style containing new material starting

with some new general hints and tips.

A forum evening will give members a chance to raise a variety of questions on any computer topic that we can handle.

A new feature will be an evening emphasising the FUN you can have with your computer. We don't do shoot - 'em - up games, but the chairman has some other ideas that we can explore.

More hints and tips will concentrate on specific applications such as Word. That can be quite interactive as various ways of doing something are revealed.

Another visit from a guest speaker will further explore photo-editing.

Looking at how to deal with the proliferation of different plugs and sockets and cables will be useful. So will an evening looking at getting the best out of your smart-phone.

Skype for free telephone calls and video links over the internet will be revisited.

We will be looking at the 'Cloud' to see just how useful it can be and learning all about websites, and how to make or use them to best effect.

The programme will be rounded off with a Chips and Chat evening and finally an open evening as part of the Penarth Festival.

We do have little informal chats at all our meetings where we help to resolve or suggest solutions to problems encountered by members as they just get along with using their computer. That's the reason 'The Friendly Club' exists, after all!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, January 28, at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, at 7.30pm. Old and new hints and tips. Visitors always welcome. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

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RIGHT: David Spickett, pictured on the day of his and Jackie's wedding.



REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

MR David Spickett, the well known former funeral director, who has died at the age of 80, has been described as "a caring man who was passionate about the area he served and lived".

David was the fourth generation of a family occupying a unique place in Barry's history, having founded W Spickett & Sons Funeral Directors in 1837.

Fellow funeral director Lyndsay Ellis of The Vale Funeral Service, told The GEM that David would be remembered over a wide area as someone who cared about his community, and was a thorough professional.

"David was very well known and liked, and a community-minded person. He was a caring man, who was passionate about Cadoxton and Barry – and patriotic, too."

"David was a true professional, and known to be a stickler for keeping time while carrying out a funeral."

"He was supportive of local families and provided them with a personal, dignified service."

"He and his family are part of a proud tradition, being an independent, family-owned funeral director over many decades. His son,

Andrew, joined him in the business for 14 years until David retired in the year 2000, when another independent, family-owned directors, Pidgeons of Cardiff took over."

They incorporated and kept the name until September 2012, when it changed to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service.

Lyndsay said: "We have still incorporated the Spickett name because I strive and am dedicated to maintaining the high standards and reputation established by David and his family."

"He will be a huge loss to the community, and it was a privilege knowing him. Our thoughts are with Jackie and the family at this time."

David passed away peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales on January 17, following a long illness.

He and his family regularly worshipped at the old village church of St Cadoc's in Cadoxton, though his funeral will take place at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, on Monday, February 3 at 1.30pm.

David leaves a wife Jackie, son Andrew, daughter-in-law Jane, and grandchildren Riah, Ruby, Morgan, Kiara, and Kleo. He was also father to his late daughter Jane.

Concert in aid of Haiti

BARRY Male Voice Choir has agreed to take part in a concert in the new hall at Holy Presbyterian Church on March 28, at 7.30pm in aid of the Haiti Hospital Appeal.

The event has been inspired by local campaigner, Godfrey Knight, who had organised a number of events to raise funds to help Haiti since it was devastated by an earthquake in 2010.

The GEM will be publicising more details of the concert, including ticket information, nearer the time.

As King Lear might have said about the EU...

HERE is King Lear forecasting Dave's announcement of his EU renegotiation plans:

"I will do such things, What they are yet I know not: but they shall be The terrors of the European Union."

R Bradshaw, Cowbridge.

WHAT'S ON IN BRIEF

Elderly exercise class in Barry

If you elderly and prone to falls, frail, or maybe a carer looking after someone who suffers from falls, this class could help you, says Age Connect Cardiff and Vale.

It has started the Otago exercise class at The Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry.

The class is designed to provide a series of leg-strengthening and balance-retraining exercises.

Age Connect says the exercises will help prevent falls, enabling people to live more independently and feel safe.

The classes are led on Monday afternoons, from 1pm-2pm by a qualified Otago exercise instructor; cost £2; contact 01446 732385 for further information or just go along.

History group

THE next meeting of the Rhose and District History Society takes place on Friday, January 31 at the lesser hall, in Rhose Community Hall, Stewart Road, at 7.30pm. All are welcome – entry £1 to cover the cost.

Jumble sale

THE 1st DINAS POWYS Scout Group jumble sale takes place on Saturday, February

1 at 1.30pm in the Scout Hall, Highwells Road, Dinas Powys. Admission is 50p.

YFC takes to the stage

ON February 7 at 7.30pm and February 8 at 7pm, the Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Clubs presents its annual entertainments competition at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

It sees members of Glamorgan's seven clubs take to the stage to showcase their talents – from singing and dancing to acting and comic sketches.

The winning cast will go forward to represent Glamorgan in the Wales finals in Llandudno in March and from that, the winning team go forward to the national finals held in Blackpool in May.

There will be performances from Neath, Gelligaer, Maendy and Bridgend, Llantrisant, Wick and Gower, along with final adjudication and results.

Tickets are priced at £10 per adult and £5 for under-16s.

Contact County Organiser, Gwyneth Thomas, on 07779 331839, or by email: glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk

Tickets are also available on the door each night.

HL

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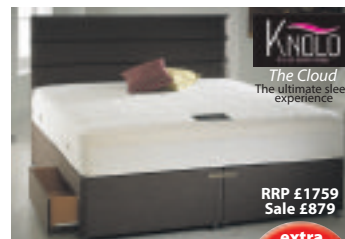


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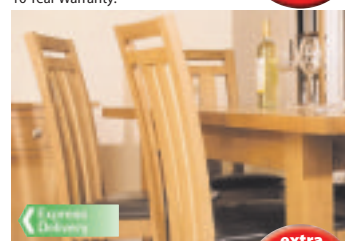


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LOCAL CHILDREN RIDE THE STAGECOACH TO SUCCESS



ABOVE: Students who were successful in their LAMDA exams.

STUDENTS from Stagecoach theatre schools in Bridgend and the Vale are celebrating once again, having achieved "fantastic results" in recent London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) exams.

The children aged six to 18 took an exam in acting or speaking of verse and prose – and all passed, maintaining the school's outstanding track record.

LAMDA awards are offered as an optional extra alongside weekly classes, and given the fact that they are a globally-recognised qualification, the uptake is always very high.

Husband and wife team Helene and Rob Reynolds said they were "extremely proud" of their award-winning schools in Bridgend and Cowbridge, and have also recently taken over as owners of Stagecoach Cardiff.

They are looking forward to an exciting 2014 for Stagecoach, following on from last year's 25th anniversary celebrations which gave students opportunities to perform at the NIA Birmingham, Her Majesty's Theatre, London, and the Grand Theatre, Swansea.

As the new term starts, new students of all ages and abilities are welcome to enrol. Its show term and main school students will be rehearsing and performing the musical *Shakespeare Rocks!*

The early stages children will showcase their singing, dance and drama in *Disney Magic*.

Other opportunities include Performance Arts Awards, which are fully-accredited group musical theatre exams. Students will also be busy rehearsing for performances in St David's Hall and the Wales Millennium Centre.



Spring term students with their certificates.

Group calls for polystyrene ban



Vale DWP pilot scheme targets benefit fraud

VALE MP Alun Cairns has welcomed news that the Department for Work and Pensions is piloting a new communication campaign targeting benefit fraud and error in the Vale.

He commented: "Every year, £5.8 billion of taxpayers' money is lost because of benefit and tax credits fraud and error. This campaign is about helping to reduce the amount lost each year and creating a fairer wel-

fare system by giving those claiming benefits the information needed to avoid errors occurring, as well as focusing on catching those committing benefit fraud.

"This campaign will run for some weeks. It aims to drive awareness amongst claimants, their friends, families and intermediary organisations of the need for claimants to report change of circumstances; and encourage the wider public to report suspected benefit fraud."

FRIENDS of Barry Beaches are calling on people to log onto the Welsh Government's website and sign their e-petition calling for a ban on polystyrene food and drinks containers.

Contact: www.assemblywales.org/epetition-list-of-signatories.htm?pet-id=957.

The group will also be holding a beach clean on Sunday, January 26, meeting at 3pm on Porthkerry Beach, adjacent to the Forest Cafe.

Co-ordinator Coun Rob Curtis, said: "Polystyrene litter represents around a quarter of all the material we remove from the beaches. We now need your support to finally get it banned."

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Cowbridge on the TV – but not as you know it!

A NEW series of Sky One's popular comedy drama *Stella* starts this Friday (January 24) and Cowbridge will feature – although it may be somewhat disguised.

Over the last year, many residents have noticed several large lorries parked either in the cattle market or at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, and this has been 'base camp' while scenes were being filmed in a Cowbridge hair-dressers.

In the Ruth Jones-created show, which The GEM understands is Sky One's biggest budget drama production, a new hair salon opens in the fictional valley town of Pontyberri (in reality, Ferndale in the Rhondda).

So, when the location managers were looking for a suitable salon, they approached Fich and Ramous in Eastgate.

Be warned, the salon has been renamed

Jensen's, and all the nearby signs identifying Cowbridge businesses were removed whenever filming was taking place, so exterior shots will be designed to hide its true location.

However, quite a number of scenes were shot inside the salon, and Fich and Ramous staff were often on hand as extras.

Clair Collins from Fich & Ramous, said: "It looks as if this new salon will feature heavily in the plot line."

"I have been told that episode one on Friday will be setting the scene and introducing new characters. I think the salon will appear as part of that

ACT FAST WHEN STROKE STRIKES A LOVED ONE

IAN LEWIS of the Stroke Association, Bridgend, was the first guest speaker of 2014 at Bont Faen WI – we are all aware of the possibilities of suffering a stroke and Ian explained that the support group provides opportunities for both victims and carers to get out of the house and meet people in similar situations.

There are many activities, both indoors and outside.

A total of 152,000 people suffer a stroke each year in the UK, one in five being fatal, and stroke is the world's second biggest killer, regardless of age or ethnicity.

Many people suffer a mini stroke (TIA – transient ischaemic attack) which may only last a few minutes, but it is essential to report any such incident to the doctor as it could be warning of a more serious stroke to come.

Obesity, extremes of smoking, alcohol and drugs can all be dangerous factors and Ian stressed the importance of healthy living. He said to remember to act fast if a stroke occurs (the symptoms are facial weakness/arm weakness/or speech problems).

If a member of your family should survive, please do not hesitate to contact the Stroke Helpline and consider

joining the Bridgend group. Lynne Addison thanked Ian.

Miranda Davies won the raffle prize.

Stepping back to report on some recent fun matters, our committee members enjoyed a very good end of year meeting at the River View Chinese restaurant in December and almost all members joined us for the Bont Faen WI New Year dinner at the Bear Hotel.

A delicious meal and good conversation was interrupted by Santa's helpers, who distributed some late Christmas gifts, valiantly purchased in the January sales!

Looking ahead to February 16, our branch member, Margaret Bourke, will give a personal presentation on her talk, which was well received, at the Glamorgan Federation Council meeting last year – '90 years of Glamorgan WI: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'.

On March 27, we celebrate our 25th anniversary, for which an excellent speaker has been booked. The meeting will move upstairs to the Town Hall to accommodate current and original members, invited guests, and other local WI groups linked both past and present.

We certainly look forward to 2014! JULIE HARRIS (president)

Primary School staff 'Walk for the Wounded'



MEMBERS of staff at St David's Church in Wales Primary, Colwinston, walked home from work – as part of a national charity event run by the military charity 'Walking with the Wounded'.

They walked from Colwinston to Cowbridge at the end of the school day on January 16. The walkers donated £300 to help re-train and re-educate wounded servicemen and women for finding long term employment after they have left the Armed Forces.

Events lined up for the rural Vale calendar

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society held a meeting at the Six Bells Inn, Penmark on January 16 when chairman, Andrew Studley, thanked members for their support.

The society is now open to membership for a £10 per annum fee, and anyone wishing to join can contact the secretary on 01446 710610 or on 07855 414 759.

It is hoped that over the coming months, many supporters will become society members. The society will be holding an instruction in ploughing weekend at Norton Hall Farm on

March 29-30 by permission of Mr Graham David, on fields at Little West on the Ogmere-by-Sea road to Southerndown. All are welcome.

The annual tractor run in support of the Ed Evans Foundation will again start and finish in Frank Sutton Yard in St Mary Hill on April 27. The event is managed by the Aberthaw Tractor Boys. Anyone wishing to enter should contact 07973 889 712, or 07980 921 990.

This year's hedge cutting competition will be held at Gileston Farm, Vale of Glamorgan, on February 16, at 9.30am, by permission of Mr J Thomas.

The annual ploughing match will be held at Marcross Farm, Vale of Glamorgan, on Sunday, September 21 at 9am by permission of Mr Evans and family. Anyone wishing to enter should call 07980 921 990.

The ploughing match will incorporate The Ferguson T.20 European Championship. All tractors and ploughs in this class were manufactured between 1946 and 1956.

This event will be run by The Ferguson Club in memory of the late Harry Ferguson. Please contact 01656 654440 for further details.

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Barry holds key to improved rail service in Vale

A SCHEME that could mean more trains on the Vale of Glamorgan line has been praised by Vale AM Jane Hutt.

Network Rail is undertaking engineering works at Barry station to bring disused 'Platform 3' back into use.

A new back platform loop of track will also be installed, dedicated to the Barry Island service.

Work has been ongoing since autumn 2013 and, when complete, will improve reliability and unlock the potential

for more trains to run between Barry and Cardiff, as well as Barry and Bridgend, via Llantwit Major.

"The expansion to the infrastructure at the station is a huge step forward for Barry and the Vale, and it's exciting to see it taking shape," she said.

"Crucially, the work is key to unlocking the potential for more frequent services.

"This will ultimately have significant economic and social benefits by improving access to jobs, education and training opportunities in

Cardiff and elsewhere along the line."

The work at the station is part of a wider £220m scheme to improve services into Cardiff from the Valleys and Vale by 2015. Improvements will be undertaken at Cardiff Central and Cardiff Queen Street stations, as well as the renewal of the signalling across the network.

Due for completion by 2015, the £220m scheme, with funding of £23m from the Welsh Government, will potentially provide hundreds of extra rush-hour seats each day on rail services on the network.

Mark Langman, route managing director for Network Rail Wales, said: "Cardiff has the largest travelling workforce in Wales, with around 37 per cent of the all workers commuting from neighbouring authorities, like the Vale of Glamorgan.

"A large number of that workforce relies on rail and usage continues to increase, adding further demand on an already-congested railway."

"Enhancing the infrastructure at Barry is part of a wider bank of works in the south Wales region in helping to cater for the extra demand from the region."

Said Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation at Vale Council:

"More and more people now choose to travel by rail to get to and from work and to access leisure activities."

"Infrastructure improvements to enable more frequent services on this line will deliver on important economic, environmental and social goals for the communities across the Vale."

Reformed Hudson is now a really lovely boy!

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (01656 725219).

HUDSON is a two-year-old Lurcher.

When he came to us, he had some behavioural issues, but having received lots of training and TLC, he is a really lovely boy, and is a favourite of many of our volunteer dog walkers.



He adores people, and is always pleased to make a new friend. He also enjoys playing with other dogs, but can get a bit boisterous, so he will suit an owner who is used to his typical lurcher behaviour and who will help remind him to play gently!

He can live with another dog, preferably a female of a similar size. He is housetrained and can be left for a few hours. Hudson will make a wonderful addition to a home.

If you can offer Hudson a home, please call us on 01656 725219, or pop into Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend CF31 4NG.

We also have lots of other dogs of all shapes and sizes looking for homes - so if you have room in your life for a dog, please come and visit us. We are open from Tuesday-Sunday, at 12pm-4pm.

LINDA FEAGAN,

Supporter Relations Officer, Bridgend

BACKING FOR YELLOW LINES

RESIDENTS from the Witchell area of Barry have expressed concern about cars parking outside the Witchell post office, says independent councillor Richard Bertin.

"I fully support the residents who are calling for no waiting measures to be introduced at this site in Barry Road. This has been brought to my attention at our local PACT meeting and so I hope the Vale Council will do something about it," he commented.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D810.

● £2,000: 205653.
● The rollover, which now stands at £3,500 was not won this week.

● £10: 8 6 1 8 4 1, 929890, 488414, 647560, 857402, 979229, 682133, 624284, 873965, 732046, 741463, 491587, 164633, 511546, 350508, 525600, 293604, 750973, 281894, 427526, 588138.

● £5: 439352, 446778, 444061, 350136, 632825, 360653, 676531, 427011, 536059, 570596,

719225, 120128, 121066, 752835, 829240, 139809, 735645, 650165, 763443, 758661, 435279, 860985, 304130, 367463, 595726, 341598, 279291, 669139, 966244, 728211, 468019, 719985, 842444, 598582, 664889, 814394, 398881, 242665, 725063, 819771, 171127, 615576, 742491, 226293, 256753, 740796, 581314, 246915, 486583, 877731, 517400, 370725, 583813, 974492, 872630, 831047, 410942.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Concert celebrates Mozart's birthday at Dinas Powys

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born on January 27, 1756, and to mark the anniversary, Lodron Ensemble will present a concert on January 27 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

The group of players, all from the orchestra of Welsh National Opera, led by Antony Tarlton, conductor of the Dinas Powys Orchestra, has been assembled to perform a serenade, which was commissioned by the Count Lodron to celebrate the Countess Lodron's name day in August 1787, and entitled 'Lodronische Nachtmusik'.

This piece, played by two violins, one viola, one double-bass and two horns is described by one acknowledged Mozart expert as a 'Salzburg Masterpiece' but is, surprisingly, very rarely performed.

It will be preceded by the better known serenade, 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik'.

Afterwards, there will be a celebratory glass of wine.

Tickets are available from members of the Dinas Powys Orchestra and the Dinas Powys Community Council office, or telephone 01446 796733.

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Tristan Greedy would like to inform all of his customers that due to business expansion they have moved from the Heritage Business Park, Wick Rd, Llantwit Major to their new premises (next door to the Post Office sorting office), Llandow, Vale Business Park - and it's business as normal.

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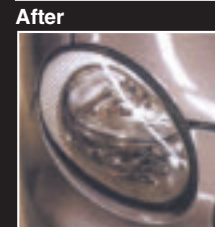
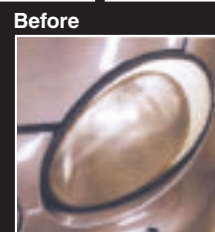
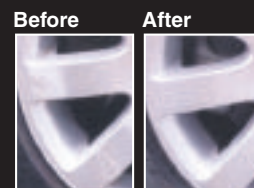
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What is on, and where

Mayor's coffee morning

MAYOR of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis, will be hosting a coffee morning on Saturday, January 25 in the Mayor's Parlour, Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, at 10.30am-12pm in aid of the Mayor's charities, Ty Hapus and The JAM Fund. Entry fee will be £3.

For more information, contact 01446 704921 or email juliehurst@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Quaker questions

BRIDGEND Quaker Meeting will be holding the second session in a series of public events promoting Quakerism at Bridgend Quaker Meeting House, 87 Park Street, 7pm to 9pm on Tuesday, January 28. The topic will be 'Quakers and

Silence'.

Coping with depression

VALE Council-led Barry Communities First, in partnership with Journeys mental health charity, is launching a free depression-busting course to help people improve their mental health.

"This course will explore the symptoms of depression and help to find tools and strategies that will enable you to maintain long term mental health and wellbeing," a spokesman explained.

From January 30 at 11am-1pm it will run for eight weeks at Newydd Barry Hub, 121 Broad Street, Barry.

Contact Bethanie on 07501 468 694 or email bethanie.morgan@newydd.co.uk.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00014/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Proposed new shopfront and first floor windows
Location/Lleoliad:	Head to Head, 5 & 5C, Station Road, Dinas Powys
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Dinas Powys
Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00023/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Proposed Horticulture unit and associated works
Location/Lleoliad:	Waitrose, Bird Lane, Cowbridge
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge
Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00026/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Conversion of existing coach house to dwelling, renewal of existing planning approval
Location/Lleoliad:	Llaneinnydd, St. Nicholas
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	St. Nicholas
Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00028/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Form new extension to side of the property and internal alterations. Front window to be changed back to the original style timber framed windows. Enlarge first floor to form room in roof over new extension.
Location/Lleoliad:	25b, Archer Road, Penarth
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth
Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00032/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Two storey, single storey and first floor extensions together with double garage and BBQ enclosure
Location/Lleoliad:	Causeway House, Causeway Hill, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Llanblethian

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2013/01249/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Change of use and conversion of building to provide residential accommodation in the form of 15 affordable dwellings, retail unit (Use Class A1 / Use Class A2 / Use Class A3 Restaurant / Cafe), access arrangements, and associated works
Location/Lleoliad:	Haydock House, 1, Holton Road, Barry
Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2013/01279/OUT
Proposal/Cynneg:	Residential development with associated access and associated works
Location/Lleoliad:	Land south of Cog Road, Sully
Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00006/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Proposed office building and associated works, including car parking, access, landscaping and variation of condition 9 of planning permission ref. 2011/00673/FUL to allow development within existing retained grassland
Location/Lleoliad:	Units 5 and 6, Llandow Business Park, Sutton Road, Llandow
Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00008/RES
Proposal/Cynneg:	Reserved Matters for erection of 40 dwellings
Location/Lleoliad:	Former Emporium Garden Centre, Fferm Goch, Llangan
Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00022/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Application to vary Conditions 7 and 8 of planning permission 2013/00699/FUL
Location/Lleoliad:	RAF St. Athan, St Athan
Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00042/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Construction of a two storey football centre with parking
Location/Lleoliad:	Opposite Hensol Villas, CCFC Training Centre, Hensol

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyrto o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2013/00632/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Construction of 25 residential units and associated works
Location/Lleoliad:	Site of former quarry, Leckwith Road, Llandough
Application No/	

Rhif y cais:	2013/01279/OUT
Proposal/Cynneg:	Residential development with associated access and associated works
Location/Lleoliad:	Land south of Cog Road, Sully

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00006/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Proposed office building and associated works, including car parking, access, landscaping and variation of condition 9 of planning permission ref. 2011/00673/FUL to allow development within existing retained grassland
Location/Lleoliad:	Units 5 and 6, Llandow Business Park, Sutton Road, Llandow

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00008/RES
Proposal/Cynneg:	Reserved Matters for erection of 40 dwellings
Location/Lleoliad:	Former Emporium Garden Centre, Fferm Goch, Llangan

Application No/ Rhif y cais:	2014/00042/FUL
Proposal/Cynneg:	Construction of a two storey football centre with parking
Location/Lleoliad:	Opposite Hensol Villas, CCFC Training Centre, Hensol

Application(s) with Environmental Statement/ Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Land south of Cog Road, Sully.

I give notice that Taylor Wimpey plc is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Residential development with associated access and associated works.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement at a charge of £150.00 from Savills, 12, Windsor Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BY or a free CD version, so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 13 February, 2014.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 13 February 2014 quoting reference 2013/01279/OUT.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land south of Cog Road, Sully

Hysbysir trwy hyn Taylor Wimpey plc n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Residential development with associated access and associated works

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynu copïau o'r datganiad am £150.00 from Savills, 12, Windsor Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BY or a free CD version, tra bydd y stoc ar gael.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 13 February 2014.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 13 February 2014 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2013/01279/OUT.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vagonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 23 January, 2014

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager, Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Spot's cat chalet returns home!

SPOT, the Cadoxton cat who lost her outdoor chalet, is overjoyed because it has been found!

Last week, Spot's owner, Sylvia Archer had spoken of her shock and disappointment that the cat chalet had been taken from her property while she was out on New Year's Eve.

Black and white Spot had enjoyed her snoozes in the chalet during daylight hours, returning to the house at night. She was so downcast at its disappearance that she took to sitting where it used to stand!

A neighbour had seen a man with a hoodie walking up Main Street with the chalet, but didn't make the connection until later.

The day after our story hit the streets, the chalet was found not far from Sylvia's house.



ABOVE:
Spot can now look forward to more happy snoozes in her chalet.

A delighted Sylvia contacted The GEM to say: "I've got great news, Spot has her 'chalet' back!"

"A guy called at the house on Friday and said he had found it at the top of Main Street."

"I'm sure it was returned due to the piece in The GEM – many thanks from me and Spot."

Porthcawl man is recognised with a British Empire Medal

A PORTHCAWL man received the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year's Honours List – a reward for 15 years of volunteering for a Forces' charity.

Dave Davies, who lives in Danygraig, Porthcawl, has been involved with SSAFA for 15 years, and has been the Mid-Glamorgan branch secretary for 12 years.

He explained that SSAFA provides life-long support for Service personnel and their families, and said that last year, in the Bridgend area alone, the charity helped in 57 cases, distributing £63,000.

He said: "We are all volunteers, and my office is in a spare bedroom."

There are 20 volunteers in the Mid-Glamorgan area, which covers Merthyr, RCT and Bridgend county borough.

Dave explained that the charity did not do a great deal of fundraising. Rather, the volunteers' expertise comes from matching people in need with a charitable organisation that is set up to help them.

He said: "As an example, we had a case of a former Serviceman who



Dave Davies of SSAFA, who was awarded the BEM in the New Year's Honours List.

was an HGV driver, and we able to contact the Road Haulage Benevolent Fund to get financial assistance."

Acting as branch secretary has, until recently, been something that Dave had to make time for after work.

He said: "I was a good old-fashioned woodwork teacher, and when I retired from that I worked in the accounts department of a solicitors' office."

Now, Dave is completely retired, giving him a little more time to devote to SSAFA duties.

He and his wife of five years, Anne, are now awaiting details of when and where he will receive his BEM!

Penmark resident fined for failing to produce his horse passports

PANDELIS TSOFLIAS of Penmark, near Barry, pleaded guilty to four charges under the Equine Identification (Wales) Regulations 2009 at Cardiff Magistrates Court on January 16.

Vale of Glamorgan Council Trading Standards officers began their investigation after reports of fly grazing on council-owned land in Rhose. Mr Tsoflias admitted ownership of the animals only when officers and con-

tractors attended the site to remove three horses.

Requests were made by Trading Standards for Mr Tsoflias to produce the horse passports; however, these were not forthcoming and Mr. Tsoflias provided false and misleading information to the investigating officer.

He pleaded guilty to one count of failing to produce a passport without undue delay, for which he was fined £150, two counts of failing to produce a horse passport for which he was fined £300, and one count of obstruc-

tion for providing information that he knew to be false, for which he was fined £200. He was required to pay a £65 victim surcharge and costs of £780, bringing the total to £1,495.

Principal Trading Standards Officer Christina Roberts-Kinsey said: "This result highlights the importance of ensuring each horse is correctly identified and that passports should be produced without delay to Trading Standards officers. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has a zero tolerance policy in place with regard to fly grazing."

Search for owner as cat found 'in poor state' dies

RSPCA Cymru is appealing for help to find the owner of a cat found in Barry with "the worst matted fur" ever seen by an RSPCA inspector.

The female tortoiseshell and white cat was seen in Hunter Street by a member of the public on Tuesday (January 14) in a very poor state, underweight and lethargic.

Following an examination by a vet, 110 grammes of matted fur was removed from the cat's body. It was also established that the cat wasn't microchipped or wearing a collar.

Inspector Sophie Daniels said: "This poor cat had the worst case of matting I have ever seen,

the fur had knotted into tennis ball-sized lumps all over her body."

"We would like to trace the owner of the cat and would like to speak to anyone who recognises her, or who has information about where she might have come from."

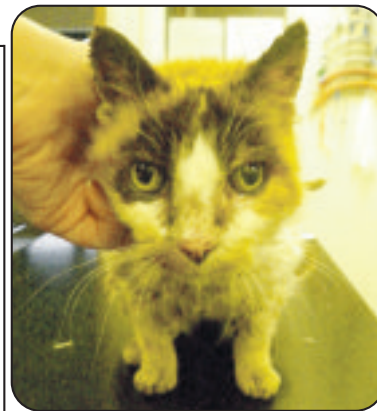
Sadly, due to breathing difficulties, the elderly cat had to be put down a few days later.

• Anyone with information is asked to contact the information line on 0300 123 8018 where they can leave a message for Inspector Daniels. All calls will be treated in confidence.

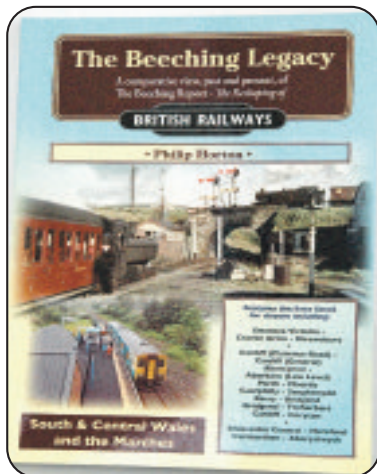
If you would like to help the RSPCA, you can give £3 now by texting HELP to 78866 (text costs £3 + one standard network rate message).



ABOVE: The "worst matted fur" ever seen by an RSPCA inspector and BELOW: After the haircut!



Remembering when Dr Beeching wielded his axe on the railways



BOOK REVIEW BY MIKE WILCOCK

The Beeching Legacy South and Central Wales and the Marches, by Philip Horton; price, £20; Silver Links Books.

THIS latest book by Philip Horton demonstrates his lively interest in railway and his knowledge in this volume of south Wales.

With over 144 pages, we start at chapter 1 with memories of the 1960s, with pop music and Tom Jones and Shirley Bassey. Also the production of over 19,500,000 tons of coal and the employment of 83,000 miners. All memories now.

At that time, all trains were powered by steam and he has many maps to illustrate the lines running through the area. This chapter also considers the impact of nationalisation in 1948 and the implementation of the Railway Modernisation Plan of 1955.

Chapter 2 looks at the impact of the Beeching Report for the modernisation of passenger services in the area and the fact that

most main line wayside stations had takings of less than £5,000 per annum.

Chapter 3 refers to passenger services listed for withdrawal by Beeching; June 15, 1964 saw the line from Barry to Bridgend closed, but restored in August 2005.

However, Barry Island to Barry Pier closed in 1976 and it is very doubtful if it will ever re-open through the tunnel.

The various sections in the book are very well illustrated, with detailed maps and many new and unseen photographs. In the Barry to Bridgend section, we see ex-GWR tank engines at Llantwit Major in the 1950s, DMU passing Rhose cement works and Porthkerry No 1 tunnel and finally the new bay platform at Bridgend, which is now back in use.

Although the book is priced at £20, it is one that will be used many times for map and photo reference – and no doubt you will be encouraged to travel by train again in south Wales.

Two call-outs for Dock Lifeboat

VOLUNTEERS at Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat station responded to two emergency calls over the weekend.

The first was in the early hours of Saturday morning when they were called to help someone who was in a distressed state on the coast line.

The South Wales Police were able to help the person and the lifeboat crew returned to dry land just before 1am. Later that day, the crew were called out again to investigate

reports of a small boat adrift off Nell's Point. The crew found the empty boat and towed it back to the harbour.

The education and fundraising volunteers have also resumed their work for the new year. New volunteers for the teams are needed.

Volunteering with these teams gives an opportunity to help save lives at sea without having to risk your own as the crews do.

Please call the station on 01446 735678 to find out more.

AP

Call for volunteers

THE Alzheimer's Society is calling on local carers, former carers or people with dementia to support the charity as research network volunteers.

The call follows the G8 dementia summit last month when Alzheimer's Society chief executive, Jeremy Hughes, pledged to spend at least £100 million on dementia research in the next decade.

"Research network volunteers use their personal experiences of dementia to help Alzheimer's Society make crucial decisions about dementia research, including setting research priorities and supporting ongoing research projects," a spokeswoman explained.

For more information on becoming a Research Network volunteer, contact Matt Murray on 0207 423 3603 or matt.murray@alzheimers.org.uk.

'Choirs of Barry' concert for Mayor's charities

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Claire Curtis is proud to be presenting The Choirs of Barry Concert at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, on Friday, February 28 at 7pm.

The concert will feature Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies Choir, Barry Choral Society and guest soloist Jodi Bird.

Tickets are priced at £5 and can be purchased at the offices of Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry CF62 8NA.

All proceeds go to the town mayor's chosen charities which are: Ty Hapus and The Jam Fund.

For more information, please contact Julie Hurd, Mayor's secretary on 01446 704921 or email: juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

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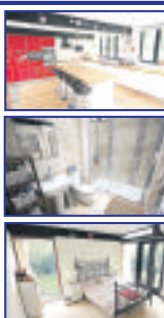
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Llanharry

£450,000

Character four bedroom home in grounds of just under an acre in the popular village of Llanharry. EPC Rating E



Bonvilston

£550,000

Four bedroom detached family home conveniently positioned offering excellent transport links. EPC Rating C



Trerhyngyll

£875,000

Three bedroom detached home set within generous grounds with stables, barns and paddocks. EPC Rating E



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**Colhugh Street,
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20' Kitchen/Diner

£365,000

E52



Wine Street, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
Detached
West End Location

£225,000

E43



Drake Close, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Garage
Backs on to Golf Club

£115,000

E50



Chris Davies



Mallory Close, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Conservatory
No Chain

£69,500

E46



Barons Close, Llantwit Major
3 Bed Semi-Det
Superb Town Location
Generous Plot

£159,950

E47



Warlow Close, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Well Presented Family Home
No Onward Chain

£139,950

D67



**Hayes Cottage, Methodist Lane,
Llantwit Major**
2 Bedrooms, West End Location
Off Road Parking

£219,950

E40



Four Acre, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
53' Garden
Garage

£158,500

E47



Turkey Street, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
West End Location
Requires Updating

Guide Price £275,000



Roberts Close, St Athan
4 Bedrooms
Rural Views
20' Sitting Room

£175,000

F38



Yew Tree Grove, St Athan
2 Bedrooms
Allocated Parking
No Stamp Duty

£99,950

D65



Church Lane, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
Semi-Rural Location
Lovely Gardens

£230,000

E55



**Cambrian Avenue,
Llantwit Major**
3 Bedrooms, View To The Front
Elevation, No Onward Chain

£159,950

D68



27 Clos Ogney, Llantwit Major
4 Bedrooms
Double Driveway
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D68



**Boverton Road, Boverton,
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Requires Updating

£159,950

E40

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D60



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Ensuite. Utility.
50' Garden.

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D68



**Fitzhamon Avenue,
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C69



Beach Road, Marcross
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2 Reception
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D64

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E41 - £525 pcm
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Yew Tree Grove, St Athan
C74 - £550 pcm
Three Bedroom
Shower, UPVC and DG

Beaufort Way, Rhoose
C69 - £550 pcm
Two bedrooms, Bathroom with
shower, Enclosed rear garden

Cornwall Road, Barry
D56 - £550 pcm
Two bedrooms, Balcony, Garden

Readers Way, Rhoose
D66 - £550 pcm
Two bedrooms, Garage,
Conservatory

Adenfield Way, Rhoose
D62 - £695 pcm
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Shower Room

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These properties are aimed at aspiring home owners who can rent now and buy the properties later. Occupiers will save for their mortgage deposit while renting.

Rent: £173.08 per week.

Who will qualify for the Rent First Scheme?

To be eligible for the scheme, applicants must:

- be over 18; and
- have lived or worked in the Vale of Glamorgan for six months, priority will be given to those who have a local connection to Llantwit Major.

Applicants will need to be first time buyers, or consider themselves first-time buyers in their own right, and meet certain affordability criteria.

For an application pack, contact the Housing Strategy Team.

Telephone: 01446 700 111

E-mail: housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



NEW HOMES FOR RENT AT SCHOLARS VIEW, COWBRIDGE

Wales & West Housing, in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Taylor Wimpey, are proud to announce that our exciting new development at Scholars View, Town Mill Road, Cowbridge is nearing completion, with an expected handover date at the end of April 2014.

Our new housing scheme will comprise of five houses:

- one, two-bedroom four person house,
- three, three-bedroom five person houses and
- one, four-bedroom six person house.

Rents will begin from approximately £95 per week.

In consultation with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Cowbridge and Llanblethian Community Councils, it has been agreed that priority will be given to HOMES4U members who have a local connection to the area.

Interested HOMES4U members should bid for these new properties in the usual way, and the dead-line for all bids is 29 January 2014.

For further information regarding this new development contact:

Wales & West Housing, Housing Options Team.

Freephone 0800 052 2526

e-mail housingoptionsteam@wwha.co.uk

The deadline for Homes4U applicants to bid on these properties is 29/01/2014.



APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 29 January 2014

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
 Visible Services and Housing
 Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
 121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

ARTHUR DAVIS COURT, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
 • 2 x studio apartments
 • First floor (no lift)
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £108.77 per week including service charges

BELLE VUE CLOSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 242945
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Community alarm
 Rent £95.70 per week inc water and alarm charges

BUTLEE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 105891
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements - no pets
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • Lower ground floor
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 Rent £81.69 per week
 Priority given to applicants with an excellent tenancy history

CWRT HORTOP, BARRY

H4U reference 1105538
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Own front door/parking
 Rent £75.50 per week including service charges

FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 237116
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Warden and alarm
 Rent £105.23 per week inc. water and alarm charges

GREYBURN HOUSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 1104332
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
 • Ground floor
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Parking
 Rent £92.77 per week including service charges

HANOVER COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 973439
 Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical needs)
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 Rent £80.01 per week
 Preference given to applicants with a two bedroom need

HARVEY STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 985216
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Enclosed rear garden
 Rent £87.71 per week

HATHAWAY PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 271570
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £96.56 per week including water charge

LIDICOAT COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 365588
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
 • Second floor (no lift)
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 Rent £75.65 per week including service charges

MAES YR YSGOL, BARRY

H4U Reference 1103179
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Enclosed rear garden
 • Parking
 Rent £90.18 per week including service charges

MAES YR YSGOL, BARRY

H4U Reference 1051270
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
 • Four-bedroom house
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Enclosed rear garden
 • Parking
 Rent £104.23 per week including service charges

MAES YR YSGOL, BARRY

H4U Reference 1084044
 Suitable for a single person
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 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Parking
 Rent £71.13 per week including service charges

MAIN STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 946618
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal front door
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NEWHOUSE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1100589
 Suitable for applicants over 55 meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
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 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Shower outside
 Rent £83.00 per week
 Preference given to applicants with a two-bedroom need. People in receipt of pension credit considered.

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 Rent £85.89 per week including water charges

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H4U reference 1111804
 Suitable for a single person - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
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 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Parking
 Rent £74.86 per week including service charges

VERE STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 1086379
 Suitable for a family with an older child - no pets
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • First floor (no lift)
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal front door
 Rent £75.00 per week including service charges

VERE STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 953249
 Suitable for a single person - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
 • Ground floor
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal front door
 Rent £71.34 per week including service charges

WINCHESTER CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 228420
 Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirements
 • Three-bedroom house
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 • Gardens
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Contact WWH Housing Options Team on 0800 062 2526 or

housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk for an application pack.

Visit the HOMES4U web page to view Immediately Available Homes
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You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.

All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

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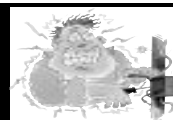
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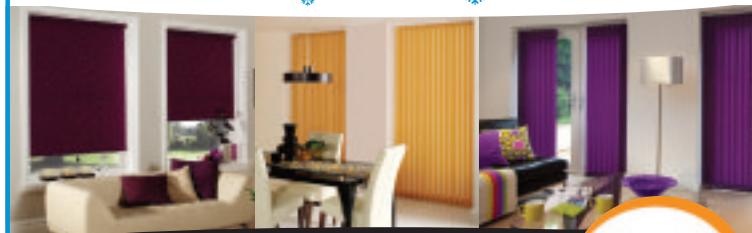
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International referee Nigel oversees Pencoeed under-12s

PHIL STEELE on the microphone, hog roast on the go, match programmes, Nigel Owens in the middle and Pencoeed under-12 stars forming a guard of honour.

Was this happening at a regional super stadium? No, it all happened on the main pitch at Pencoeed RFC to celebrate their 125th anniversary. With the weather playing a part it almost didn't go ahead, so a big hand goes to all who lent a hand to work on the waterlogged pitch.

With the sun drying the pitch out, both sides lined up to do battle, Cwmbran traditionally take the spoils on recent encounters at 15-a-side.

Playing away from the clubhouse, Pencoeed were focused and both sides tested each other in the early exchanges, with testing runs from Kieran, Joe Watts, Cory Lewis, Luke Hall, James, Griff, Jordan and



Man of match Matthew Oddy with Nigel Owens and Phil Steele.

Jack all making Cwmbran reorganise.

Forwards formed a ruck in attack and Kieran took charge, making yards and troubling defenders, backed up by the pack. Cory span the ball wide to Curtis to offload to Joe to go more direct, before

popping to Matt who stepped inside then out to dance around would-be defenders to dab down under the posts; the try was converted by Matt.

Cwmbran were quick out from their line and pressure forced an error. They set up quick ruck ball and swift hands put the ball through the backline to open their scoring; the try was converted.

A good period of attractive rugby from both sides followed, well marshalled by Mr Owens; Kieran received a short pass to bulldoze his way over through whoever stood in his way for a great individual effort to make it 12-7.

The tempo was good from both sides and given the conditions, there were few errors being made; confidence grew and the complete backline handled and fed for the forwards to recycle for Cory to plan a blind-side move with Griff supporting. It was stopped five metres short by the Cwmbran cover but quick thinking by blindside Jay saw him take the score to 17-7.

The halftime whistle

went and coaches supported the players, Tara got the oranges, Picton got the water, and all parents were pleasantly surprised by the scoreline.

At the start of the second half, two early scrums were pinched against the head by Drew, allowing the backline to readjust to make use of bonus possession; the backs attacked well, supported by the forwards.

Cory passed short to Curtis, who stepped inside and spotted a gap to dart 40 metres untouched to touch down.

Cwmbran were still a force to be wary of and the level of physicality from both sides clearly surprised Mr Owens. Commitment in the tackle area was high and top efforts from Ben Lloyd, Griff, Matt, Max, Jay, Ellis, Lewis Drew Jack and Jordan saw them all put their bodies on the line.

The Pencoeed forwards were comfortable with their own possession and from set plays right to left each opportunity was snuffed out by Cwmbran. It took a blind move from Curtis



Back row (left to right): Steve Clarke, Pencoeed linesman, WRU referee Nigel Owens, Peter's marketing manager Claire Conway, and Pencoeed RFC chairman Mike Bosley.

Front row (left to right): Cwmbran under-12 captain Tommy McClean, Pencoeed vice captain Max Phillips, Pencoeed captain Curtis Palmer, Pencoeed mascot and ball carrier Luke Hall.

ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK - Visit juliehancock.org for more pictures.

to pop the ball off the floor to Luke Hall, who supported well to receive and drive over to widen the scores to 27-7.

Cwmbran didn't give up the battle, a credit to a quality team, and more pressure came from the visitors; a backline attack on the blindside was stopped short by Gruff Ben Lloyd and Matt before the pack arrived. Close quarter snipes failed to penetrate but when the ball was sent wide it was difficult to contain the pace of the Cwmbran's backs who grabbed a consolation try, the full time score 27-12.

The Magners man of the match, chosen by Phil Steele, was Matt Oddy – a great display Matt, well done.

With consideration to the squad ethos, Cwmbran agreed before the fixture that three periods would be played so that the newer members could experience playing at this intensity; unfortunately Mr Owens did not have enough time to officiate so Mr Bosley stepped up and ably filled Nigel's boots.

There were 10 changes to the home team and in sporting spirit Jack and Drew turned out for the visitors (in the centre and scrum). Cwmbran tested their endurance and initially Pencoeed looked the livelier. Tommy, Ewan, Joe Stroud, Dafydd, Ben, Beck, Sam, Liam, Noah, James, Ellis Tyler and Luke Watkins all proving very powerful in attack and defence.

Both sides worked well, Ellis was quick to turnover ball and Noah, Sam and Luke Watkins went well at short range.



Pick of the bunch for this period were Noah for his go forward and defensive work and Dafydd, who attacked well at every opportunity – well done both!

A great phase to end the contest and the occasion, all boys who took to the pitch committed to the entertainment of the match and it was made that extra bit special having been able to secure the world class

qualifications of Nigel Owens to referee the fixture.

Well done squad and all the coaches and backroom staff.

Chris Cadogan Peters' Pies donated 125 tasty treats and new rugby balls to the club, as part of Peter's Slice of the Pie Community Fund, established to support deserving community groups, sports teams, schools and charities across south Wales.

Players and their families enjoyed the pies, pasties and sausage rolls donated by Peter's and Nigel Owens said: "Local businesses play an important role in helping grassroots rugby to develop and thrive. Decent equipment is essential, so the contribution from Peter's is greatly appreciated."

Claire Conway, marketing manager at the

Caeprilly-based food giant, said: "Sport is a huge part of our ethos. Pencoeed Junior RFC is a great club and we're proud this contribution will help train future rugby stars. We wish them the best of luck."

Mike Bosley, chairman of Pencoeed Juniors RFC, helped the team apply for a slice of Peter's funding and said: "We are a successful section with many of our players proving themselves with district and Wales selection; however, it's a struggle to provide the equipment that they desperately need."

"We are delighted with the funding from Peter's and look forward to playing and competing with the brand new balls. Now, our players have better equipment to practice and play at a more professional level."

Readers in Bridgend can see more photographs of the game on page 26.



Rugby league trials in capital

WALES Rugby League will be holding open trials for both their South Wales Academy under 16 and Wales students' squads on February 2 at Cardiff Arms Park.

The under 16s trial starts at 1pm and players selected will form the squad which will play eight fixtures from February to July.

The Wales students trial starts at 2.30pm and players selected will form the squad which will play in the 2014 Student Four Nations Championship at Easter against sides from England, Ireland and Scotland.

WRL development manager Mark Jones said: "Wales Students have been very successful over the last 10 years. We are currently ranked

third in the world and are the Four Nations champions.

"Many of our former student players have also been snapped-up by some of the biggest Rugby League clubs in the country and are now making substantially good careers for themselves as a result. Do you fancy the challenge too? Then please register and see what you can do."

To register for the trials, download a form by visiting <http://media.rladmin.co.uk/docs/SW%20Academy%20U16%20Registration%20Form%202014.doc> for under-16s, or <http://media.rladmin.co.uk/docs/Wales%20Students%20Registration%20Form%202014.doc> for students and return it to mark.jones@walesrugbyleague.co.uk by Friday, January 24.

Barry darts league round-up

LEAGUE leaders, The Cwm Talwg, lost their unbeaten record to defending champions, the Poachers.

The Poachers held a 2-5 lead after the first doubles leg but the Cwm Talwg won the last two legs to cut the margin to 4-5 overall.

Steve Moggeridge hit a 180 and Jon Hurn hit a 110 out shot during the match.

BFC Allsorts had a 6-3 victory over the Park Weasels and the Windsor Nomads came through a tight game, against the Billy Ghosts, with a 5-4

win.

The game between the Plastics C and the Dartonians was all square after the singles. The Plastics won all three doubles legs to gain a 6-3 victory; Craig Harris hit a 180.

In the first division, Caddy Cons Raiders pulled off a surprise victory over league leaders, The Throws of Despair, winning 6-3.

The Starlets lost 2-7 to the Mariners 66. Mary McKinney, from the Starlets hit a 106 out shot while Mike Copeland, from the Mariners, hit a 180 and a 103 out shot.

RL

Archery championships come to St Athan



The Drum Field Archers.



MoD St Athan Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Robert Balls, hosted archers from across the UK.

On Sunday, January 12, as Lord Paramount, MoD St Athan Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Robert Balls, hosted archers from across the UK as they competed in the Welsh and Open Indoor Championships 2014.

The Welsh Field Archery Association event was arranged and hosted by the Llantwit Major Archers to whom MoD St Athan is their indoor winter training ground.

Over 50 archers took part in the event which had 21 classes containing six different styles of shooting. The team travelling the furthest, from Scotland, represented Drum Field Archers. They had driven from Edinburgh to take part in the event and went home with the only female mem-

ber of the team, Louise Shingler, taking the title 'First Welsh Open Adult Female Unlimited Champion'.

Each archer shot 60 arrows from a distance of 20 yards into a target area determined by their class and the competition attracted archers with a wide range of age and experience.

Welsh team captain and current world champion, Gary Hart, won the Adult Male Unsighted Compound while Commonwealth Games participant Geraint Thomas, won Adult Male Unlimited with an outstanding score of 300/300 and an 'X count' of 58, which is a new Welsh record.

Younger archers were also represented and Daniel Goodwin (9) from Barry, who shoots for Llantwit Major Archers, is now first Welsh and Open Cub Male Sighted Recurve Champion.

Talent seems to run in the Goodwin family as mum, Teresa, took the title of

first Welsh and Open Adult Female Sighted Recurve Champion.

Llantwit Major Archers general secretary, Colin Ketly, said: "Everyone has had a great day and the venue at St Athan has worked particularly well. To shoot 60 arrows is a challenge for everyone and it's been lovely to see the youngsters shooting so confidently alongside the adults."

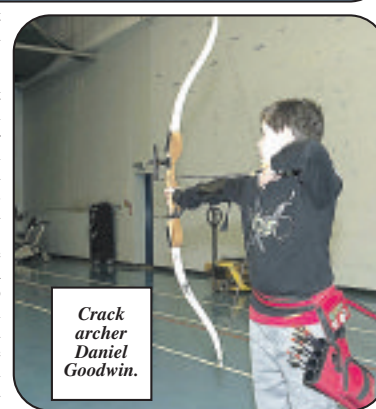
Traditionally, the Lord Paramount presents the archers with their awards. On this occasion this role was held by Wing Commander Balls, who presented the winners with a ribboned medal.

Wing Commander Balls said: "The Llantwit Major Archers have a close affiliation with the RAF with Service personnel and their families being among their membership."

"Archery in Wales has a long and distinguished history and the skills of the archer have helped win many a

military battle. It is good to know that now a sport it is still being practiced and enjoyed by the current generations of Welsh archers."

Competition results for Llantwit Major Archers: First, Welsh and Open Junior Female Unlimited Champion – Imogen Kent; first, Welsh and Open Junior Male Sighted Compound Champion – Callum Mills; first, Welsh and Open Adult Male Sighted Recurve Champion – Mat Symmonds; first, Welsh and Open Adult Female Sighted Recurve Champion – Teresa Goodwin; First, Welsh and Open Cub Male Sighted Recurve Champion – Daniel Goodwin; first, Welsh and Open Adult Male Unsighted Recurve Champion – Bob Marriott; first, Welsh and Open Junior Male Unsighted Recurve Champion – Ieuan Graham.



Crack archer Daniel Goodwin.

Bombettes shut out Croesy

IN an eagerly-awaited first Cup fixture of 2014, the Barry women's rugby side, the Bombettes, overcame their visitors in a bruising encounter on Sunday, January 12 at Barry RFC.

This was a test of how far Bombettes had progressed since last year's Cup win against the same opponents and, as Second Division champions, they didn't disappoint.

On a bitterly cold afternoon, the Barry club fielded a strong squad and, with their growing confidence, played up the slope in the first half and went into the interval with a 0-0 scoreline.

The Bombettes' management used the bench well during the break, with the fresh legs of Husk and Richards replacing Phillips and Kath Jones, both of whom had put in a decent shift.

Becoming increasingly desperate, Croesyceiliog resorted to spoiling ball, fairly or otherwise, and,

constantly infringing, as they were under great pressure.

The Bombettes eventually made the vital breakthrough when, using field position perfectly, Shanahan made a snipe down the blindsides before Bannister and Fox handled and a perfectly-timed pass from the latter allowed sub Britton to use her pace and evade the defence for a corner try which went unconverted.

For Bombettes, Potter and Richards carried well, with O'Neil always running the ball back at the opposition and opening up the defence. Yapp tackled as if she was twice her size by seemingly jumping on any opponent who dared come near her; they shall not pass! Shanahan had her most influential game in both defence and attack.

Indeed, in a very tight game, it was hats off to a complete defensive display by every player. The management extended congratulations to the whole squad for a totally committed, dogged and professional performance and a well deserved first Cup victory but stressed the need to keep a full team on the pitch at all times.

The spokeswoman added: "The forwards laid the ground work but the whole squad take the plaudits. Special thanks to the super subs who didn't get on, to the intrepid supporters who braved the bracing conditions to watch and to Chris Clogg for amazing food."

Bombettes: O'Neill, Day-Smith, Fox, K Jones (captain), Binney, Bannister, Shanahan, Yapp, Young, Potter, Coleman, Helmore, Kath Jones, Phillips and Horne. Super subs: Richards, Husk, Rees, Britton and Smith.

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Ffion Bowen, of Maesteg Celtic Ladies.

Ffion's call-up for the Six Nations!

BEING asked to represent your country is every sports player's dream.

Now that dream is about to come true for dental nurse Ffion Bowen, from Neath. She has been select-

ed to play for Wales in the Women's 6 Nations - just 18 months after taking up rugby.

Ffion is set to make her international debut against Italy at the Aberavon Rugby Club ground on Sunday, February 2. To prepare for it

she's putting in hours of extra training, which she has to fit around her full-time job in ABMU's dental training unit at Port Talbot Resource Centre.

Ffion plays for Maesteg Celtic Ladies and has been in the regional Ospreys

select team.

She said: "I've only been playing rugby for around 18 months. I used to play netball but the club I was with in Neath stopped and I was looking for a different sport."

"Someone mentioned they were starting a new team for ladies at Maesteg Celtic."

"I went along and liked it, and carried on playing."

Last September, Ffion had a successful trial with the Ospreys, going on to play in all three of their Women's Regional Championship games.

After that she got her unexpected call-up for Wales.

Ffion, who is due to face Italy just days after her 23rd birthday, said: "I never expected to get this far. I didn't expect to get in the Ospreys team let alone be selected for Wales."



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GEM sport

LLANTWIT MAJOR UNDER-9s IN ACTION

The under-9s celebrate their victories like true rugby players – with a burger!



LLANTWIT MAJOR under-9s were in double action recently, when they faced off against Llandaff North and Bryncethin.

It was a successful day for the youngsters, who emerged 13-4 winners against Llandaff North and 8-4 winners against Bryncethin.



Under-8s shine in the sun

COWBRIDGE under-8s travelled to a sunny but cold Llantwit Major for another fixture against their local rivals.

Team 1 started brightly, with Joe Davies opening the scoring, running wide to score after an offload from Joe Arentsen. A try by Henry Whitehouse followed after a period of pressure led by Ioan Phillips.

Llantwit got back into the game to level the score, after some great interplay. Cowbridge piled on the pressure in the last few minutes, and some good team passing set Ollie Gale on a powerful run to score.

A great run by Joe Arentsen set up Henry Davies, who cleverly passed to Joe Davies, who was on

hand to score on the line. Final score Llantwit 2 Cowbridge 4.

Team 2 also started strongly and then took advantage as the Llantwit team began to tire, playing their second game on a heavy pitch.

A superb run by Ned Rees, who ran half the length of the pitch and was unlucky not to score himself, led to Sam Sheppard's first try. Osian Bruce scored from the restart after a switch move with Sam Sheppard, which was quickly followed by an excellent team try.

James Collingridge, Harry New and Charlie Berkley Smith all demonstrated good running and passing with Ben Stephenson finishing the job. Two individual tries took the score to 5-0 at half-time, one from Osian, and one

from Ben Stephenson, displaying a striking turn of pace and running wide to score.

The tryfest and solid tagging continued in the second half. Ned Rees was at the heart of the action, first scoring a try after a determined run from James Collingridge, and then offloading to Sam Sheppard who was running in support to score.

Osian secured his hat trick by weaving through the blanket of defence before displaying his usual injection of pace. Harry New concluded the Cowbridge scoring with his characteristic sprint to the corner.

A consolation try meant that the final score was a 9-1 victory for Cowbridge.

PS

Cowbridge RFC go down in Llandaff

COWBRIDGE RFC travelled to Llandaff North last Saturday full of confidence following victories over Llandaff in the league and Nantfyllon in the SWALEC Bowl.

The pitch was just about playable at the start but both teams suffered in the wet, slippery conditions with the Cowbridge scrum finding the going particularly difficult.

The first 20 minutes was a ding dong affair with play regularly moving from one 22 to the other, but with the much larger North pack gaining the upper hand, they rumbled over the line for a try after 25 minutes, adding the conversion.

Cowbridge finally managed to put some pressure on the North line but were unable to convert the pressure into points.

Then the heavens opened and as the incessant rain fell play became more and more difficult, but it was Llandaff North who adapted to the deteriorating conditions with a kick and chase try after seven minutes. With Cowbridge down to 14 men for 10 minutes

the North extended their lead with a penalty, and in the dying seconds of the game scored their third try for a final score of Llandaff North 22, Cowbridge 0.

A very disappointing result, with the home pack proving too much in such awful conditions.

Finally, get well soon Dai Griffiths who was carried off in the second half with a fracture to the lower leg.

This Saturday we take on fourth placed Nantymoel at the Athletic Field. There is then a break of two weeks for the Six Nations and on February 21 we take on Nantymoel again at home, this time in the last 16 of the SWALEC Bowl.

RV/RK

Evan's amazing five-time success

NO wonder Llanharfan's Evan Williams is known as the Welsh Wizard.

Last Saturday he had an amazing five-time when two of his runners won at Haydock Park at huge starting prices and three of them scored at Taunton.

His conditional jockey, Conor Ring, who celebrated his 21st birthday this week, brought off a 390-1 double when winning on 22-1 chance Extreme Impact and 16-1 shot Wychwoods Brook.

At Taunton stable jockey Paul Moloney bagged a hat-trick with Lienosus, who went off at 9-1, Buywise, a 5-4 favourite, and Tornado In Milan a 3-1 chance.

Extreme Impact, running for the first time in 619 days, got home by a neck from the well fancied Ugly Bug and Lienosus, who carried top weight of 11st-12lb in the heavy ground, won by three-and-three-quarter lengths from American Life.

Followers of Evan's Saturday Daily Mirror racing column also had plenty to smile about, as he told his readers that his best chances of a winner were with

Wychwoods Brook and Buywise. He also wrote that Extreme Impact "will love the ground."

TOM'S WINNER
The Vale's Tom David and his younger brother Evan were in action at the Tiverton Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Sunday.

Tom was successful on Chloe Roddick's Romassor in division one of the restricted and Evan finished third on Phil Dando's Driftwood Haze in the third division of the maiden race.

EVAN'S 50TH LUDLOW WINNER

LLANHARFAN'S Evan Williams, who is the leading trainer at Ludlow, saddled his 50th winner in the last five seasons at the Welsh border racecourse when his seven-year-old bay gelding Buywise landed the Sidney Philips Novices' Handicap Chase under Adam Wedge.

The former winning point-to-pointer came home seven lengths ahead of Venitia Williams's Take The Mick at odds of 11-2 and will surely go on to better things.

BRIAN LEE

COWBRIDGE DARTS LEAGUE REPORT

Llanharry take firm grip on top spot

ON Tuesday, January 14, there was a full programme of league matches played.

Llanharry strengthened their hold on the top spot by winning 9-0 against the Edmondes A, while the Edmondes B defeated the Highwayman Inn 8-1.

In a close fought match, the Edmondes C defeated the Hare and Hounds 5-4. In the other matches, the Farmers Arms lost to the Cross Inn 4-5 and the Old Post Ladies beat the Star Inn 5-4.

Ann Hustwick of the Old Post Ladies set a new high of 112, the ladies' three-dart-out in that match.

So, the league standings are: Llanharry (80 points), Edmondes B (70), Edmondes C (50), Hare and Hounds (47),

Cross Inn (43), Edmondes A (41), Highwayman Inn and Farmers Arms (38), Old Post Ladies (20), The Star Inn (14).

The next matches are on Tuesday, January 28, when there is a full programme of league matches. Edmondes B hosts the Star Inn, the Farmers Arms hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Edmondes A, the Old Post Ladies hosts Llanharry and the Cross Inn hosts the Edmondes C. The first matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail, Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT